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FEBRUARY, 1881.

All are in pursuit of happiness, though the methods adopted for its attainment are strangely diverse, and in some cases seem ill adapted to the accomplishment of the object. Many appear to think it is to be secured only after a long struggle, somewhere near the end of life; others think it can only be purchased by a vast expenditure of money. Happiness depends more upon ourselves than upon our surroundings. The cultivator of a few bulbs or plants in pots in a cottage window may derive as much pleasure from these little pets as the millionaire whose costly conservatories are deservedly the wonder and admiration of the land. Happiness may be secured by all who seek it properly, and almost without money and price. Of this fact we have been often reminded when passing pretty little gardens, evidently the pride and pleasure of their owners. A correspondent wishes us to remind those who live in cities, surrounded with paved streets and yards, without a spot in which a blade of grass could grow, that by means of window boxes and balcony gardens they can secure very much of rural beauty, and make pleasant little greeneries in the great desert of bricks and mortar.

Nothing pleased us more when traveling in Europe than the skill exhibited in giving an air of rural beauty to small city lots, many of them so very small that few Americans would be willing to attempt ornamental gardening on so limited a scale. We usually put too little labor on too much land. If we can make a parlor or sitting room beautiful in winter with a few plants, why can we not make a small paradise

of a little front yard? In this respect there has been much improvement in the past few years. We scarcely pass through city or village in any part of the country but we see small places as well as large nicely arranged, and possessing features so good and so new that we are tempted to make a sketch at once.

Our purpose at this time, however, is to advise those who have no garden spot of a way to



make a pleasant home, as previously suggested, and this we shall do mainly by illustrations, mostly of balcony gardens that we have seen in various parts of the world. The architects in this section are designing houses with shady recesses over the front doors, which afford opportunity for the most elegant adornment, and one of these we give. This little recess from early summer until autumn presents



an exhibition of rural beauty, and affords more pleasure to its owner, and to the thousands who pass by, than would tens of thousands of dollars expended in architectural display. With plenty of water, which should be applied every evening, plants can be kept in such situations in perfect health. In the selection of plants more regard may had to elegant foliage than beautiful flowers; but it is absolutely necessary to obtain those that will keep in perfection a long time, whether chosen for foliage or flowers. Plants that rapidly attain their best estate, ripen and pass away, may be interesting and useful in appropriate places, and generally furnish flowers abundantly for cutting, but should not be planted in vases or baskets, nor on balconies, where a good show must be kept up the whole season.

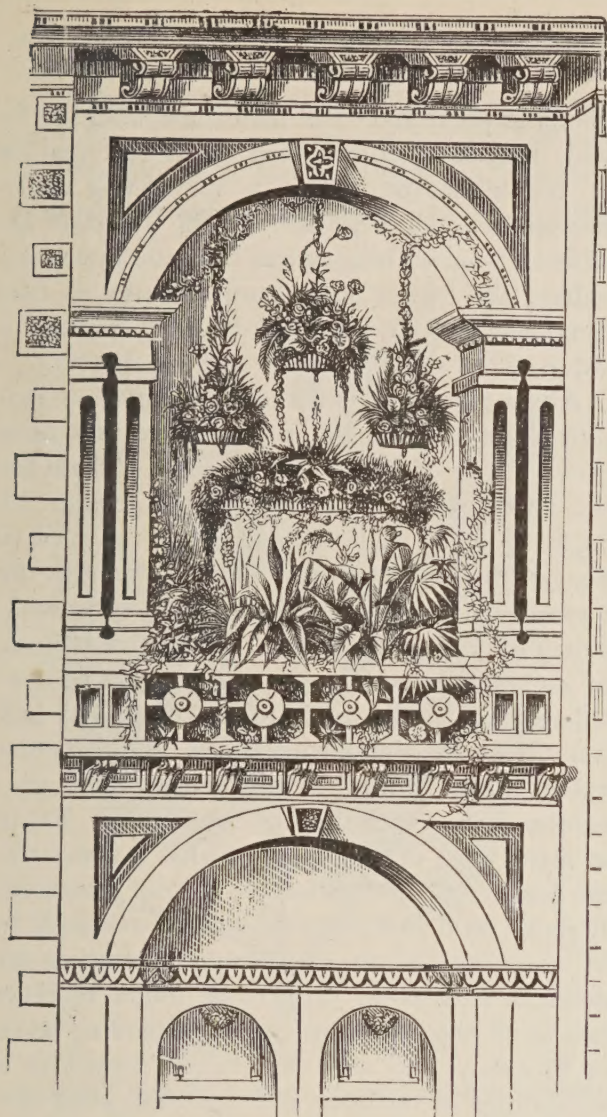
The following from a correspondent giving some new ideas in Balcony Gardening, or rather, Vine Culture, we have endeavored to illustrate as nearly as possible from the sketch furnished.



MR. VICK:—Once, when in Europe, I saw something, in a large city, which pleased me very much, that I have never known to be described in any of the foreign or American journals, and knowing the great interest you take in everything that tends to make even city homes pleasant and cheerful, by giving them a little rural embellishment, I thought you would like to publish the facts for the benefit of your numerous town readers, for I find your MAGAZINE on the tables of many of my friends in large cities, some of whom never think of having a plant or flower, except in the winter time, when a collection is obtained from some greenhouse, and the poor things do well if they manage to survive the winter.

The house that attracted my attention was a neat three story building, and as I saw by the brass plate on the door was occupied by a Physician and Surgeon. The front room of the lower story I judged was the office of the Doctor, while the front room of the second story seemed to be the parlor or sitting room, for the French windows, hung on hinges, like double doors, were open, and I saw ladies and children in the room. The windows of this room opened upon an iron balcony, perhaps four feet in width, and running the whole length of the front of the house. The building was plastered and marked off in blocks in imitation of stone of a grayish color. The wood-work was dark oak, contrasting nicely with the building and showing the plate glass to the best advantage.





You may think it strange that I should notice this house so much, while there were others in the immediate vicinity far more costly, and, no doubt, in much better architectural taste. The reason why I thus describe it is that I wish you to show your readers this house by means of an engraving, and I think I can show it much better by word than by drawing, though I shall attempt the latter. Another reason is that it was adorned and draped and beautified in a peculiar manner, for from the flag sidewalk grew a large grape vine, with a stem possibly five inches in thickness, without a branch or leaf until it reached the second story. It was then trained over the balcony, making a most beautiful arbor, and ascended still higher. Being the latter part of the summer the vine was well loaded with white grapes. Some of the bunches were grown in thin glass bottles, or vessels of some kind, somewhat after the manner in which English gardeners sometimes grow cucumbers. I never saw this before, nor have I seen it since, and do not know whether it was done for the novelty of the thing, to see what could be done, or for some practical purpose. I have never seen another balcony that seemed to me so charming, and am glad of an

opportunity to describe it to your readers, and if any one will announce the fact, at any time, that they have succeeded in forming one like it I shall be still more rejoiced. B.

In this connection, we give the following from a correspondent who has had long experience and good success in the culture of plants.

"I think I have before stated that I entertain no great love for the Cactus family, which it would be difficult for any one to do who had



lived surrounded with them for months in their native gloomy, sandy, desert home. This winter I had, however, a little branching Cactus, called the Lobster Cactus, which is really a pretty plant in form, of a bright pleasant green, without any odious thorns, and with plenty of delicate pinkish flowers. It seems to grow and flower regardless of heat or cold or moisture or drouth, and to me is a very pleasant and attractive plant, and must be much more so to those



who have never looked upon the whole family as 'thorns and briars.' It is the best I have ever known for house culture. E. B. F."

As this is really a desirable little plant of the Cactus family, we have prepared engravings showing the appearance of both plant and flower, the latter about natural size.



## HEDGES AND HEDGE PLANTS.

The question of hedges is an important one for most sections of the country. A certain amount of enclosure is necessary on all farms and to many village lots. How to dispense with enclosure as much as possible, is one of the problems of the economical farmer, and he does well who solves it satisfactorily.



HONEY LOCUST.

To what extent barbed wire may be used instead of hedge-plants is at present undetermined, as it has not yet been sufficiently tested, under enough varying conditions, to establish the fact of complete adaptation to the desired end, but it promises well; and, probably, its defects, whatever they may be, will be, eventually, ingeniously remedied until it becomes an efficient fencing material, though it is a barbarous-looking thing. In any event, viewing the country at large, hedges will be none the less employed, and, for roadside lines especially, we would recommend them in preference to anything else.

In most States the law prohibits the old practice of allowing cattle to roam at will along the roads, but even the strict enforcement of the statute does not render unnecessary a defensive barrier on the road lines to prevent the encroachment of strays and accidental stragglers, and also to restrain one's own flocks and herds. Nothing adds more to the beauty of our country scenery than well-formed road hedges, and we would urge our rural population to increased

efforts to plant and rear handsome hedge-rows until they shall constitute a prominent feature of the landscape. This is no merely sentimental plea; the feasibility of the object is established—good hedges can be made at a small outlay, and, when made, are effective as barriers, and in their ornamental effect increase the value of the property many times their cost.

Although quite a number of plants are employed for hedging, there are three that have proved to be of the highest service. These are the Honey Locust, the Osage Orange and the Japan Quince. The two former are adapted to general hedging purposes, and the latter is the best for an ornamental hedge of low growth, suitable for village places. Above the latitude of  $40^{\circ}$ , the Osage Orange can scarcely be considered sufficiently hardy to make a good and durable hedge, but further south it is of great value. The Honey Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, or Three-thorned Acacia, is hardy in many parts of Canada, but what is the northern limit of its cultivation we are not informed. It grows wild in Pennsylvania and westward to Missouri, and in the Mississippi Valley as far down as Louisiana. It is to be found more or less in all the Southern States, extending even to Florida; thus it is naturally adapted to a wide range of territory, and in all the great section of country above Virginia and the Ohio Valley it should have the preference as a hedge plant. In favorable circumstances it reaches a height of eighty to a hundred feet, and a di-



HONEY LOCUST BRANCH, SEED-POD AND SEED.

ameter of three or four feet. The leaves are pinnate and bipinnate; often on the same tree may be found both of these leaf-forms. The foliage is light, and the branches stand out at a



wide angle, and often droop at the extremities, thus giving the tree an airy, graceful habit. As a tree for shade, it is of little importance, but it has a picturesqueness of outline that renders it desirable for ornament on extensive grounds. In spring numerous racemes of small,

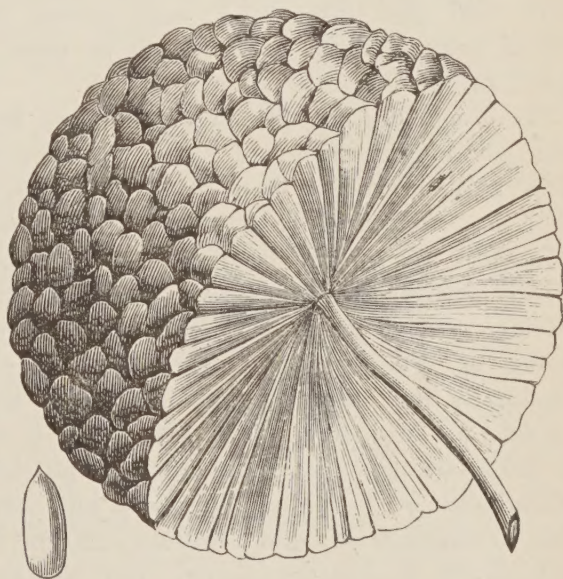


OSAGE ORANGE BRANCH.

greenish flowers are produced that are followed by long, flat, crooked or tortuous pods from ten to twenty inches in length, bearing numerous seeds imbedded in a sweet pulp. It is the circumstance of a sweet pulp that has secured to this tree its distinctive common name. Large and strong spines, or thorns, most of which are three-pronged, are found on the shoots above the axils of the leaves, and these render a hedge of this plant impenetrable by any beast.

The Honey Locust bears pruning well, and provides itself with sufficient foliage even when closely trimmed. It has been very thoroughly tried as a hedge-plant in all parts of the country, and proved to be well adapted to the purpose, making satisfactory hedges in all cases when properly treated. The plants are easily raised from the seeds, or beans, of which there are about 2,500 to the pound. The testa, or outer coat of the seed, is quite hard, and the seed requires to lie in the ground a long time before this coat is softened sufficiently to admit the moisture necessary for germination; planting in the fall is, therefore, desirable when it can be done, but, when this is not practicable, good seed can be had in the spring, as it keeps well. It is customary in spring planting to soak the seed in warm water. Water, nearly at the boiling point, is poured on the seed and

allowed to remain from twelve to eighteen hours, and is then drained off; the seed is now mixed with sand, so that it will separate easily, and is then ready for sowing. A seed-bed should be prepared by deep plowing, or spading, and thorough pulverizing, so that it is fine and mellow. A piece of ground that has received a manuring, and has been used the previous season for some hoed crop, is in a suitable condition to prepare for a seed-bed. If the soil is rich, or in good condition, no further manuring will be necessary; but, if not, it should have a dressing of old, stable manure, or some good, artificial fertilizer. The seed can be sown any time in the spring up to the time of Corn-planting, but should not be delayed later. When only a small quantity of seed is to be sown, some straight drills, about two inches deep, can be made by a line, with the corner of a hoe; in these drills sow the seed, about as thick as garden Peas are usually drilled. With a large quantity of seed, make a drill the full width of the hoe-blade, two inches deep, drawing the soil out on one side. Scatter the seed thinly and evenly over the bottom of this broad drill, so that the plants will stand from one to three inches apart when they appear. After the plants are up, they will need to be carefully weeded, and the spaces between the rows should be hoed and kept mellow all through the summer. On a very large scale, the drills may be placed three feet apart, and the cultivation can then be performed with a horse. If the plants



OSAGE ORANGE FRUIT. QUARTER SECTION REMOVED.  
SEED NATURAL SIZE.

have been well grown, they are strong enough at the end of the first season to be removed and transplanted to form hedge-rows, but if, from any cause, such as very late planting, poverty of soil, or peculiarity of season, they are weak, they can remain another year in the seed-



bed. What should be aimed at, is raising strong, vigorous plants the first season. The plants can be lifted in the fall and heeled in for the winter, or they can stand where they have grown, and have the soil drawn around them as a protection from heaving or throwing up by the frost, and be removed in the spring. When-



JAPAN QUINCE—FLOWERING BRANCH.

ever they are taken up they should be sorted into three classes, small, medium, and large sized. The small ones are not worth keeping, and may be thrown away; the medium-sized plants and the large-sized ones should be planted by themselves, so as to get as even a growth on the hedge as possible.

The Osage Orange, *Maclura aurantiaca*, has been most largely employed in this country of all the plants that have been used for hedges, and it has proved of great value under good treatment. As already noticed, it is not sufficiently hardy for the colder parts of the country. It is a native of Texas, and is there known as Yellow Wood, and Bois d'Arc. Botanically this plant is associated with the Figs and the Mulberry. It is said to grow to the height of sixty feet, sometimes, in the rich bottom lands of Texas and Arkansas, but ordinarily it ranges from twenty to forty feet, and is apt to divide its stem into two or more near the ground. The ovate-oblong leaves, which are from three to five inches in length, are of a bright, glossy green, and plentifully furnish the tree; the staminate and the pistillate flowers are borne on separate plants, and the large, compound fruit, when ripe, has, at a short distance, something the appearance of an Orange. The tree has a milky juice that flows out when the

bark is wounded; the wood is strong and flexible, and was formerly much used by the Indians for their bows, and, on this account, received from the early French settlers its common name, Bois d'Arc, or Bow-wood. The seeds are about the size of an Apple pip, and are light, requiring about 14,000 of them to weigh a pound. They are collected in Texas and sent to northern markets in November and December. In spring seed is prepared for planting in nearly the same manner as described for the Honey Locust, except that it would not be safe to use the water quite as hot; a temperature of 150° is sufficient, and the seed may soak for two or three days, and then be planted precisely as directed for the Honey Locust, and the culture of the plants should be the same. As the young plants of Osage Orange are sensitive to frost, it is important that they should not be up too early in the season, or they may be nipped. In our practice we have found it a good plan to have the seed on hand early, and, about a month before it is time to plant Corn, to put it to soak in cold water and to allow it to remain for four or five weeks, replenishing the water if necessary. At the end of the time it is in proper condition for germinating; the water can be drained off, the seed mixed with sand, and sowed, and it will grow promptly in a few days.

The Japan Quince, *Cydonia Japonica*, has long been cultivated as an ornamental shrub; it forms a spreading bush about five or six feet



JAPAN QUINCE—BRANCH AND FOLIAGE.

high. The wood is furnished with strong, sharp spines; the ovate-lanceolate leaves are thick, coriaceous or leathery, dark green, and shining; the rose-shaped flowers are a bright

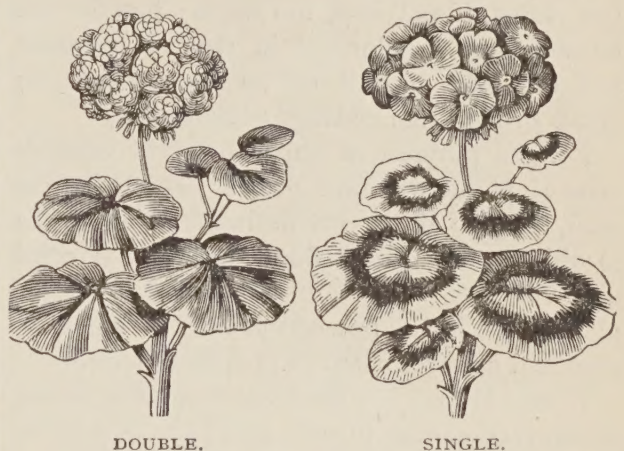


scarlet, and are produced in great abundance, so that the bush looks like a flame of fire. The flowers come out early in the spring, before the leaves, but the leaves expand while the flowers still remain. A hedge of Japan Quince in the early spring presents a sheet of scarlet bloom, and is beautiful beyond description. As the foliage is handsome, the hedge at all times is quite attractive. The plant is of rather slow growth, and, as it never gets high, it is easily kept in proper shape. As an ornamental and defensive hedge combined, for village places, it is without a rival. It is quite hardy, and will do well in all parts of the country. The propagation of the Japan Quince is mostly by root cuttings, consequently the plants can never be procured at so low a price as the Honey Locust and Osage Orange, and the nurseryman must always be depended upon for a supply. But the plants can be obtained at a reasonable price, and, for short lengths of hedge, the outlay required is not great.

While giving prominence for hedge purposes to the three plants that have now been described, we would not be understood as disclaiming the good qualities of other plants for particular purposes and localities. The Barberry, *Berberis vulgaris*, has been proved very serviceable in northern localities; in the Eastern States, and in some parts of the northwest, it has warm admirers. As it is a shrubby plant, the labor of pruning and keeping a hedge of it in order when fully grown may not be as great as with one formed of stronger-growing plants. It is a pretty sight in spring, covered with its bright-yellow blossoms, and in the fall its foliage assumes some rich, dark colors, and it is then brilliant with its scarlet berries. The fruit, which is sharply acid, is valuable for tarts and jellies. The plants are quite easily raised from seed sown as soon as ripe, or in the spring, and the cultivation is substantially the same as that required for the other hedge plants already described. As a variety, and for special places, and to a limited extent, it is desirable. At the south some of the Thorns, species of *Crataegus*, and the Cherokee Rose, and other plants are available. Screens that are not intended to be defensive can be made of a great variety of plants—Norway Spruce, Arbor Vitæ, Hemlock, Althæas, Weigelas, and many other flowering shrubs and deciduous trees may be employed to a good purpose. But, after fifty years of experience, we can safely accord the first position of merit to the Honey Locust, the Osage Orange, and the Japan Quince. The method of setting the plants in the hedge-row and their after-treatment will be given in a future number.

## GERANIUMS.

The Geraniums are the most useful plants in cultivation, and the most popular. Wherever we go, where plants are grown, in any part of the civilized world, in the humble, little garden, in the latticed window of the thatched cottage, in splendid palace grounds, and national gardens, everywhere do we find the Geranium, at once useful and beautiful, and entirely eclipsing by its mass of bloom and brilliant coloring its more aristocratic and costly neighbors. They not only bear beautiful flowers, but the foliage of many varieties is almost as handsomely colored as the flowers; the leaves of some are



loaded with the sweetest of perfumes, while still others are of the most elegant forms, and make a better setting for a button-hole bouquet than any other leaf known.

For constancy of bloom the Geranium is unequaled; small plants that can be bought very cheap, if put out in May, will completely fill a bed in three weeks after planting, and early in June will be a mass of flowers, and continue getting better and better until blackened by the frosty nights of autumn. While other plants are wilting under the scorching rays of our summer sun, the Geranium seems to glory in the hottest weather. There is such a variation in the color of the flower as well as in form and color of the leaves, that with a few varieties of Geraniums a more artistic and varied bed can be made than with almost any other flower. The center of a large bed may be scarlet, with light colors around, or a few rows on the border may be of the silver-leaved kinds. Indeed, we have seen delicate and intricate patterns formed of Geraniums alone in some of the celebrated gardens of Europe.

The single varieties are, perhaps, the most useful for lawn beds, and these range in color from scarlet to white. As the plants are quite tender, they should not be put into the ground until there is no danger from frosty



nights. The plants should be set so that when grown they will entirely conceal the ground.

The double Geraniums have been much improved of late years, and we now have them of as many colors as the single, and quite as beautiful. For bedding, they are almost as good as the single, and for cutting, better. The white varieties are apt to turn pinkish in the sun, which is quite true of both single and double, and this, in hot, dry weather, causes people sometimes to think their plants are not true to name. The newer varieties of Geraniums bear very large trusses, and endure the sun as well as the single.

The Geraniums make excellent winter-blooming plants, if not kept too warm; but for this purpose should be grown in pots all summer, and the buds picked off as they appear, or plants grown from cuttings in September.

For the purpose of improving this valuable class of plants we have grown thousands from seed, some of them very desirable and superior to older sorts. From these we have selected nine varieties, which are shown in our colored plate. We have allowed our friends who have seen and admired them to give them names.

1. Sir. Harry, is a seedling from Gen. Grant, which it resembles in style and habit of growth. It possesses all the good qualities of its parent, and, in addition to this, a more beautiful color. We think this the finest bedding Geranium.

2. Streak of Light. This is a rival of New Life. The color is salmon, distinctly striped and marbled with white. It is very free-flowering, the truss large and very compact.

3. Sunshine, is a beautiful vermilion scarlet. The flower is large and most perfect in form.

4. James Vick. A beautiful shade of crimson; the lower petals changing to violet-rose. It is a new and novel color.

5. Neptune. The flowers are large, fine-formed, of a clear, light magenta, the base of upper petals being pure white.

6. Meteor. The flowers are a very bright crimson, large and full. Truss large and well formed.

7. Mary Anderson. This is a seedling from Jealousy. It is a beautiful vermilion scarlet. The truss and flowers are large and well-formed. It is a very free-flowering variety, and will, we think, prove an excellent bedder.

8. Maiden's Blush is pure white, finely flaked or spotted with rose. This is a very pretty and novel light-colored variety.

9. Queen of Roses is a beautiful flower, with large trusses of double light-pink flowers, the center pure white, forming a beautiful contrast.

10. Holly Wreath, an Ivy-leaf variety. This is a very useful as well as ornamental class

of Geraniums, being of a drooping, graceful habit. It is excellent for hanging baskets, vases, &c. This variety is one of the best.

11. Marshal McMahon, (Bronze-leaf). This class of Geraniums are grown mostly for the beauty of their foliage, which is very brilliant. They are excellent for bedding or borders.

12. Freak of Nature. This new variety, introduced last year by Mr. CANNELL, is a grand improvement on Happy Thought, in some respects. It is more compact in growth, the white in the leaf is nearly a pure white, and the plant generally makes a good appearance. With us, however, the markings are not as true and constant as in Happy Thought.

## WINTER-BLOOMING CARNATIONS

The Carnation is one of the prettiest, sweetest flowers in the world, and no flower is so valuable to the florist as the winter-flowering variety, of which there are about eight very



desirable sorts. In the March number of last year we gave a colored plate showing six varieties. We now have in flower a new one, Mrs. Henderson, which is of a most beautiful scarlet, a color we long desired. The flowers are large, and the plant vigorous and robust. We give an engraving of a plant, just as it is to-day growing.





#### BIRTHWORT.

MR. JAMES VICK :—The *Aristolochia Siphon*, Birthwort, or, as it is most commonly called, Dutchman's Pipe, is a most vigorous and rapidly-growing climber, belonging to the natural order *Aristolochiaceæ*. This plant is a hardy, deciduous climber, a native of North America, where it is found growing to a height of over eighty feet on the wooded hills of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and southward, and is also said to be found in great abundance and luxuriance in other localities of the Alleghany mountains. It is a vine that is seldom seen in our gardens, and I desire, with your permission, to call the attention of the readers of the *MAGAZINE* to this noble vine, and ask them to give it a fair trial, as I am confident they will find it to be one of the finest ornamental plants in cultivation for covering arbors, summer houses, etc. The leaves, abundantly produced, are heart-shaped, and, when the vine is in rapid growth, often measure over a foot in diameter, and are remarkably firm in texture, so that they are never injured by our severe summer storms. The stems seldom break, but are as pliable as rubber pipe, and they can be readily and easily trained to any desired form. The flowers are produced in the greatest abundance from the middle of May to the middle of June, and are both singular and interesting, on account of their resemblance to the bowl of an old-fashioned pipe. The fruit forms a six-valved pod, with flat seeds which germinate freely and produce very strong and healthy plants the third season. The seed is difficult to procure, is very scarce, and is sold at a high price. I never obtained more than one pod of seed from my vine, and from these seeds I raised some fine plants, by observing the following directions; the seeds were sown the first week in February in a well-drained pot of light, sandy soil, the pot was placed in a moist hot-bed, water was carefully given, and as soon as the plants were strong enough to handle, they were potted off into four inch pots, using ordinary potting soil; care was taken until they became well established, and

about the first of July I planted them out in a well-prepared border. I gave them a slight covering of evergreen branches during the winter, and at the end of the second season I had some fine, strong and healthy plants.

My one plant is trained to a pillar, and the flowers soon become covered by the large leaves; this may be one reason why it does not fruit more freely, for I have been informed by one of our most eminent horticulturists that he has seen, on a plant trained on an arbor, a quantity of seed-pods. If any of the readers of the *MAGAZINE* have had any experience with the *Aristolochia* in this respect, I should like to hear from them.

The *Aristolochia* is a plant of easy culture, merely requiring a deep, rich soil, and a little attention in training the shoots, and an occasional cutting back, so as to keep in due bounds.

SCOTT, in his *Suburban Home Grounds*, says: "This is a twiner and climber. Its great heart-shaped leaves, from seven to twelve inches in diameter, borne with tropical luxuriance, make the finest exhibition of massy foliage for covering isolated artificial structures of anything we know of."

A. J. DOWNING remarks, "One of the most picturesque climbing plants which we cultivate is the Pipe Vine, *Aristolochia Siphon*. It is a native of the Alleghany mountains, and is one of the tallest of twining plants, growing on the trees to the height of ninety or a hundred feet, though in gardens it is often kept down to four or five feet high. The leaves are of noble size, being eight or nine inches broad, and heart-shaped in outline. The flowers are an inch or more in length and very singular—they are dark-yellow, spotted with brown."

LOUDON says: "The appearance of the leaves of this species is striking. In its native country it climbs and twines to the summits of the highest trees, flowering early in the summer, and ripening its seeds in the autumn but sparingly. This species is remarkable for the form of its flower, which is bent like a siphon, for the trifid border of its corolla, for the very



large bracts placed on the middle of the peduncle, and for the disposition of the seeds, and the axil common to all the seeds of each cell. The roots are woody and have the smell of camphor. The stems, branches and twigs are also strongly scented as the flowers. It was introduced into England in 1763."

In conclusion I can only add that strong plants can be procured at a small price of most nurserymen and florists.—CHAS. E. PARNELL, *Queens, L. I.*

#### EGYPTIAN VASES.

The accompanying illustrations are intended to convey an idea of Egyptian ornament and its adaptability to garden and lawn decorations. A few words, therefore, descriptive of the art of the relievi chroniclers of six and thirty centuries ago may not be without interest to the readers of the MAGAZINE.



From the banks of the Nile we have the earliest art records that have come down to us, remarkable for their symbolical as well as æsthetic beauty, and severely massive character. The designs of the ancient art workers have deservedly merited the admiration of all Eastern travelers and men of culture since the days of Herodotus. The details of Egyptian sculpture and painting are for the most part typical representations, only

slightly conventionalized from natural objects. Among those most frequently met with are the Lotus, or Nile Lily, once revered by the Egyptians as symbolical of the eminency of the Divine intellect over matter, but now no longer found rising from the Nile's bed. The Palm, the elegant prototype of the massive pillars of their temples—the everlasting monuments of Egyptian skill,—still flourishes amid the obelisks and catacombs as it has for long ages. Also, as a type of ornamentation, the Nile Reed, or Papyrus of the ancient writers, is frequently met with.

"Tell to astonished realms, Papyra taught  
To paint in mystic colors, sound and thought;  
With Wisdom's voice to print the page sublime,  
And mark in adamant the steps of time."

The simplicity of outline of the architecture of the ancient Egyptians renders it well suited for the purpose I have endeavored to apply it,



and it will be found to harmonize with our modern prim-bordered walks and smoothly mown lawns.

The vases, if heightened with the primary colors, after the Egyptian style of painting, would greatly tend to enliven our winter landscape and agreeably contrast with the evergreen hedges now so much in vogue.

As the mechanical construction of the vases has been fully described in the October number of the MAGAZINE, I will merely state that the present illustrations are drawn to a scale of two feet to an inch, and can be measured with a common foot rule, it being understood that all four sides are of equal dimensions, although the perspective makes it necessary to represent the shaded sides of the vases narrower than the front. The portion marked B, the base of the vase, is constructed entirely of wood and painted as above described, *i. e.*, bright blue, red, and yellow, or, if preferred, merely tinted a light or porcelain blue and red toned to a brownish cast. The flower pot, or upper part, marked A, is intended to be made of red clay, or terra-cotta, the ornaments in relief to be colored a greenish blue, *eau de Nile*. The pots containing the plants should be removed to the greenhouse before the approach of frosty weather—the pedestals remaining on the ground as winter adornments, hence the necessity of constructing them of wood. Highland stone colored in imitation of red granite would, no doubt, where the climate will admit of their remaining out of doors, be an excellent material for the purpose. I would suggest that a por-



tion of the grounds, where space is ample, could be laid out as an Egyptian walk or garden, and many other objects to correspond in style could be introduced—seats, fountains, steps, and arbors—producing a novel and striking effect, more particularly if rendered complete by the introduction of suitable plants, *Iris Kämpferi*, *Ricinus*, *Calla*, Palms, &c. Any one possessing a little ingenuity and taste could carry out this idea at a trifling expense during the winter months. The garden in summer would thus be rendered additionally attractive to the eye and afford the mind ample scope for instructive reflection, recalling the industry of the past, the art of Rameses and Cheops, the birthplace of Moses, and the land of the Pharoahs.—J. E., *Toronto, Ont.*

#### SELAGINELLA CÆSIA.

This modest but beautiful cryptogam deserves to be better known. It is a mistake to suppose it to be difficult to cultivate. Many persons say, "We cannot have plants, we have no sunny window for them; they are too much in the way." It is one of the merits of this little plant that it loves to keep out of the way, in the shade, and it is a sweet surprise to find it in some nook where you do not look for such loveliness. It is not troubled by insects, and, when once well established, needs little care except it must not be allowed to get too dry.



It is pretty for an invalid's room, for the eye never tires of this as it does of more stately and formal plants, and nothing can be more exquisite than a vase of Rose buds, or any pretty, little flowers, mingled with its delicate, graceful fronds, which have a peculiar, changeable lustre, "like peacock feathers," a friend suggests, though their form and color vary much with the soil, atmosphere, and the position in which they have grown. One drawback is that, when cut, they soon wilt, unless a little of the root is taken with the frond and it is soon put in water or damp moss.

When once the knack of making them grow

is acquired, the plants may be increased quite rapidly by pegging down, or dividing the roots; the fronds are short lived, and unless this is done, and there are plenty of good roots, the plant soon dies. It does well in earthen pots, but better in wooden boxes in old, rich soil in which are mixed bits of brick, charred wood, or shreds of birch bark. It gets on wonderfully sometimes in the sides of pots or boxes with other plants, and seems to flourish on the moisture exhaled by them; then it becomes more erect and aspiring, and the fronds will grow a foot or more in length. But, because it loves moisture, the mistake must not be made of drenching it with too much water.

It is out of doors in the shade of rocks, fences, or shrubbery, sheltered from the wind and hot sun, that this plant attains its greatest beauty, and will be found much more satisfactory than the weeds which are often left in peaceable possession of such places, and that are so suggestive of snakes and toads that you dislike to meddle with them.

Plants of this Lycopod that have grown out through the summer may be taken up, cut back, and wintered safely in a cool room or corner, if not allowed to get too dry. In the spring the roots may be divided and set out again in their places.—C. J. C.

#### WINTER AND SPRING.

Mr. VICK.—A real bright spot in the month's history is the arrival of your beautiful MAGAZINE. We almost fancy spring has come, and that we may turn from the well-filled pages to put into practice some of the happy suggestions; but no, the flowers are at rest under their snowy blanket and we must wait until the storm king gets over his rage. Spring will come with all its blandishments; the birds will come in joyous glee, making glad with their music every tree-top and bush; then will our darlings appear from their quiet hiding places. But these wintry days bring pleasures untold. If you had been present Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years at Floral Home, you could not have failed to recognize on these occasions your efforts to beautify and adorn the homes of your patrons. Over the entrance, with immortelles on a dark background, was placed, for the benefit of a returning sister, "Home again," and in a fine frame made of Ferns, "Welcome to our Floral Home," with other designs I may not now mention, together with sweet, fresh, fragrant flowers from the pots in the windows. All these things remind us of the goodness of our Heavenly Father, who gives us so many precious things in this life, and only asks that we shall love Him.—L. H. H., *Ottawa, Ill.*



## A PAIR OF GOOD BEGONIAS.

The varieties of the Begonia belonging to what is known as the flowering section of these plants, can be grown very successfully and made to bloom abundantly in the greenhouse and the conservatory, but, what is more, they are among the most reliable plants for the window garden. There is a difference in the varieties in relation to the heat they require for perfect development. *B. incarnata*, *B. multiflora*, and *B. manicata* will grow and bloom in any greenhouse. *B. rubra* and *B. nitida* are good varieties, but require more heat. I will state my way of raising these Begonias, and, judging from the specimens of others, I think I am fairly successful. I strike the cuttings as early in the winter as possible; as soon as they are rooted I pot them off and then keep them growing steadily until about the first of June, when the weather is suitable for them to go outside; at that time I plant them out in a good, rich border. This treatment makes strong roots and strong flowering shoots. Early in September I take up the plants and pot them in moderately rich soil, composed of one part sand, one part old manure, and two parts half-rotted sods. They are now either placed in the cold-frame for a time or taken into the house.

As Begonias will grow and flower for several years, in the following spring, after the first, those plants that are large enough, I cut back to about half their length, and plunge them in



BEGONIA INCARNATA.

the ground over the rim of the pot; here they remain all summer and make a new growth and flowering wood for winter. In the fall I repot them the same as described for the first year. Weak plants, or those that are not large enough the second spring, are planted out in the border as in the previous season. Young plants procured from florists in the spring may be treated in the way now mentioned with a cer-

tainty of having fine-blooming plants for winter. As an instance to show how easily Begonias may be raised from cuttings, I have to relate that a lady to whom I gave a few flower clusters of *B. incarnata* and *B. multiflora* took them home and, after enjoying the flowers



BEGONIA MULTIFLORA.

for some time, used the bracts at the base of the pedicels, and induced them to strike root, and made plants out of them.

*B. incarnata* is the most profuse blooming of all the Begonias, and *B. multiflora* is nearly its equal in this respect. The leaves of the former when grown are from three to six inches in length, while those of the latter are only from an inch to an inch and a half, but they are very beautiful, being a dark green with a shining surface on each side. The flowers of both are very similar in color, varying from a light to a deep rose, according to the amount of sunshine they enjoy. The low temperature at which these plants will flourish, which is from 45° to 55°, together with their other good qualities, make them particularly desirable as winter window-plants.

There is so great a variety of conditions to which window plants are subject in different dwellings, that some persons will succeed admirably with a plant of some particular variety, that in another house never appears better than a scarecrow. The capacity of each place should be studied and learned by carefully noting the condition of different plants, and those finally selected that will flower best, and all others be let alone.—R. G.



## A WINDOW-GARDEN DISASTER.

Across the way there is a young couple living in a new and pretty cottage home, which the husband built, with pride and pains, expressly for their own happy residence. It is like their fortune—it meets every necessity, and furnishes every convenience, without any surfeiting superfluity; and the care of the trim house and garden grounds makes enough of healthful occupation without tiresome toil. A pleasant society of attached friends, and an income assured by congenial labor, made this home like an Eden. Here a little human flower had come, and was growing amid the leafy ones long enough to have fastened on every fibre of the parents' hearts, when death came, and left only its grave in the cemetery, and a few relics of its dawn of life in a bureau drawer.

The young mother has, fortunately, a love for plants, and a taste in arranging their colors and forms which this sore grief has strengthened, for they are the nearest emblems and best solace for her loss. Her husband made her, first, a plant case in which she grew, in August, on the shady side of the house, cuttings of foliage plants, vines, &c., and seedlings of fragrant Mignonette and white Alyssum. In September, with the same help, these were potted and arranged on a platform stage which fills the bay-window, together with a few large plants, as Callas, &c., and vines, and a trailing fringe along the front and in suspended vases, making a beautiful ensemble. The plants, really in pots, seem to grow out of moss, which supplies humid air. A pair of curtains makes a neat inclosure and pretty semi-disclosure of the whole, and they can be drawn together when a broom is used in the room.

One morning, late in November, when an Arctic wave had been raging past for two or three days, this bright garden showed marks of injury. At first the cause seemed unaccountable, for some of the hardier as well as the tenderest had wilted in certain lines, while between these all had escaped injury. It was soon evident that a keen, thin blast of the cold outside air had been driven through the narrow chinks between the sashes and their frames, and the leaves that lay in its way had been frozen. The cause of this was soon found. An unlucky hand had closed the register which admitted fresh air into the room. A great deal of fresh air is required, not only for the lungs of the occupants, but for a heater, in which the draft is always open, either through the coals of the fire or above them, in order to have all gas constantly swept out. Besides this smoke-flue, a warm-air flue extends up through the ceiling to two rooms above. To provide for all this

continual exhalation, an inhalation nostril opens in the front wall, passes between two cellar joists to the partition near the stove, and up between two studs to a register seven feet above the floor, which admits it into the room above the heads of any occupants. It is kept up by the ascending stream of warm air rising around the heater, and so it is well mixed with this and rendered temperate before it can touch plant or person. -And, as it comes in copiously, it fills the room well and leaves no call for drafts through door or window chinks. The misfortune in this case was that some one, not understanding these invisible currents and renovations of the air, but anxious to keep the cold air out, had closed the register and left the heater to be supplied by knife-like streams cutting straight through the beautiful window-garden!—W.

## WHITE WORMS IN THE SOIL.

MR. VICK:—I think I have made one discovery, and that is, that very tender plants will bear a pretty severe ordeal to exterminate the tiny mites that sometimes infest the roots and so quickly destroy the plant. I had a thrifty Abutilon in the fall of 1877, or '78, and through the winter, leaf after leaf turned yellow and dropped off until, towards spring, the branches were nearly bare. I watched it with sadness, and tried with tenderest care to coax it into life and vigor, but in vain. At last I said, I will try an experiment, for it will certainly die if I let it alone, and it can but die whatever I do. I discovered a multitude of infinitesimal inhabitants in the soil. When I watered the plants they skipped up to the surface for a drink, and were just barely visible to the naked eye. When there was but one lone, lorn leaf left upon the plant, I feared it had not lung enough to breathe even if I succeeded in destroying its enemies. However, I took it to the sink, and loosened the roots until I could raise it from the pot, and then immersed it in a pail of water. I combed out the roots with my fingers, and shook them in a pail of hot suds. I then placed the plant under the cold-water faucet, and suddenly cooled it off with a dash of cold water through and through the fibres. I then carried it out to the gardener, and he dug a deep hole, for the mass of roots were at least two feet and a half in length after being thus straightened out. I curled them lightly around in the hole, and Dick shoveled in the fresh earth and patted it down a little, while I stood by looking on, with only a faint hope of its recovery. From that instant, all through the summer it never ceased to grow. Its one solitary leaf did not even wilt, and it had the



largest blossoms that we have ever seen, and was a magnificent tree. The leaves, also, were of an uncommon size, nearly double the usual dimensions.

This fall I had three Hydrangeas, the *H. Hortensia*, the *H. Thunbergii flore persicis*, and a variety of which I do not know the name\*, with a leaf as beautiful as a flower; the center of the leaf is white, with a deep green margin. My nameless one, my especial pet, began to look sickly, its leaves to fade and droop. I anxiously watched, and discovered the same pests that had visited my *Abutilon*—the earth seemed alive with them. I feared to try the same remedy, except as a last resort, so I put a few drops, perhaps ten, of carbolic acid in a pint of water and poured it upon the soil. This greatly decreased the number of worms, still, many rose to the surface when it was watered, and in a few days I used two or three drops more of the acid. I dared not try it again, and yet the earth was not cleared. I had heard that mustard would destroy them, and I put a tablespoonful of it in a pint of cold water, and after it had settled, I poured the top off upon the soil; many of the mites came to the surface and died there. I then placed slices of potatoe on the soil, and three or four mornings later the mites began to appear upon the ground under the potatoes. So long as there were any left, I feared for the safety of my plant, and I dared not give it any more powerful medicines, so I had a pan of frozen soil placed in the oven and thoroughly baked. Fearing the soil might not be as good after the baking process, I put a pinch of Bowker's plant food in a teacup of water and mixed it with the soil, and then treated the roots of my *Hydrangea* in precisely the same way that I had treated the *Abutilon*. I then repotted the plant in the prepared mold. It is now nearly a week since, and it has begun to grow; it did not even need shading from the morning sun, for it has not shown the least sign of wilting, but has held itself erect in the east window, and looked as if it greatly enjoyed the change. I did not find any worms when I washed the roots, so think it might have lived without changing the mold, as the acid and mustard had probably killed the insects. The result of this apparently harsh treatment may encourage others to save their favorites in the same way. I think I shall not fear hereafter to treat thus the tenderest plant. —MRS. J. H. E., *Boston, Mass.*

\* This is, probably, *H. Japonica*, with variegated leaves.

We are constantly receiving complaints of the little pests described by our correspondent, and the information here given, we are sure, will be welcome to many readers, and prove a valuable assistance to them.

## PERENNIALS.

MR. VICK:—I am tired of hearing the objection urged against perennials, that they bloom early and that if the garden contains many of them it has a sort of "second hand" appearance for the rest of the season. It is true that many of them do bloom early, but from the fact that they give us beautiful forms and colors long before the annuals can be brought forward, they may, I think, be recorded as indispensable,



WHITE AQUILEGIA.

especially when we consider, aside from their beauty, their ease of culture and perfect hardiness, two very important points in a climate like ours. A few of the leading spring-flowering herbaceous perennials are the following:

First, among the reds, is *Pæonia tenuifolia*, growing from twelve to eighteen inches high, with large, double, crimson-scarlet flowers and fine-cut foliage. In beauty this is not excelled



ANEMONE PULSATILLA.

by any other plant. It does not look like a *Pæony*; it is, in fact, utterly alone in its distinctive features, and it is increased by division only.

*Anemone fulgens* is of a very brilliant scarlet color, with a full center of black stamens, and will give a succession of bloom for six



weeks. It grows about twelve inches high, and is increased by division and seed.

*Silene rosea* fl. pl., is another beautiful spring flower which grows about twelve inches, having double, rose-colored flowers, arranged like those of the common Ten-weeks Stock. Increased by division only.

For a sheet of white, nothing is equal to the *Phlox subulata*, var. *nivalis*. It grows about five inches high, and is one of the very best plants for carpeting beds of tall perennials, as its foliage is evergreen. A very fine effect may be produced by planting a few bright-colored Tulips under it, for they will find their way out



ANEMONE JAPONICA ALBA.

*Saxifraga granulata* fl. pl., is, in habit of plant and flower, very much like the one last named, only this is white and grows from a very small bulb. Increased by division.

*Aquilegia alba* is, in habit, superior to the Fuchsias, while the pure white of its flowers, glittering above the plant like a crown of snow, constitute a feature that is sure to be admired. Increased by division and seed.

and take care of themselves. Increased by division.

We can find nearly every shade of blue among the Hepaticas, the flowers of *H. angulosa* being particularly large and fine. Increased by division.

*Anemone pulsatilla* is a beautiful flower—made to order at the instance of the fairies—with flower-stalks about twelve inches high



rising from a tuft of finely-cut leaves, and is exceedingly graceful. Increased by division and seed.



ADONIS VERNALIS.

*Aquilegia coerulea* should have a prominent place on account of its being the only flower in which blue and white are perfectly contrasted. It grows about twenty inches high, and is increased by division and seed.

First of the yellow perennials is *Adonis vernalis*, with very showy, large, bright-yellow flowers and fine-cut foliage. It grows about twelve inches high, and is increased by division. A new variety of this species has made its appearance in Europe; it is said to be of a pale sulphur color and very fine.

*Corydalis nobilis* is a good yellow flower, and grows about eighteen inches high. It should be planted in sandy soil, in partial shade,



PENTSTEMON.

and then left to itself. Soon after blooming the whole of the foliage disappears, and those who grow it for the first time are apt to feel uneasy about it, but if well situated it will take care of itself. Increased by division.

*Ranunculus speciosus* is a large, double, yellow, rose-shaped flower, which grows about twelve inches high and is very handsome. Increased by division.

Among spring-flowering herbaceous plants it is well to plant freely of *Lilium Thunbergianum* and *L. tenuifolium*. These will give a renewal of brilliancy after the first have passed away.

The summer-blooming perennials, early and late, are now very numerous. The *Pæonies*, in all shades of red and white, with *Iris* in all shades of blue and yellow, completely cover the range of shades, colors and blending of floral hues, but I will mention a few others of different forms.

The old *Pyrethrum roseum* has always been a favorite plant, on account of its deep-green, fern-like foliage, while its tall, slender stems



PERENNIAL PHLOX.

raised the flowers to an altitude which caused them to appear like a floating mass of color, but the flowers were single. Now that we have the self-same plant with large and perfectly double flowers, in pure shades and colors, from pure white to a deep crimson, including shades of yellow, amateurs have a grand treat in store for them. It is best to obtain the plants, as seed can not be relied upon to give double flowers. They grow from twelve to twenty inches high.

Potentillas are almost unknown in this country, but are very handsome, with their strawberry-like foliage and double, velvety, rose-shaped flowers, in shades of yellow down to crimson-black. They grow from one to two feet high and flower all summer. For bedding purposes they are very desirable, and are best



increased by division, the double varieties being far the best.

Within the past ten years collectors have brought forward some very fine hardy *Pentstemons* which are decided acquisitions on account of their novel forms and intense shades of color; they are in shades of scarlet, purple and yellow, growing from one to five feet high, according to the species, and are increased by seed and division.

Of all perennial plants having blue flowers, the *Delphinium* is the best, growing from two to six feet high, with many large, single and double flowers, ranging from the palest tint of



DELPHINIUM.

blue to the deepest indigo, and blooming nearly all summer. It is a plant entitled to the first rank among perennials. The first-class double varieties are as yet quite expensive. Increased by division and seed.

*Asclepias tuberosa* is, without exception, the best true orange-colored flower in existence. It grows about two feet high, and covers itself with brilliant flowers, which contrast perfectly with the peculiar green foliage. Increased from seed only.

*Geum coccineum* fl. pl., is a very bright scarlet, rose-shaped flower, and its airy habit makes it the most beautiful hardy, scarlet flower we have. It grows about twenty inches high and is increased by division and seed.

*Aquilegia chrysantha* is the queen of Columbines, growing about three feet high, containing two shades of yellow, and flowering all summer; it is a prize for any garden. Increased by division and seed.

*Lychnis flos cuculi* fl. pl., is another first-class perennial, growing three feet high and covered for weeks with large, white, carnation-shaped flowers. Increased by division only.



ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA.

The glorious *Phloxes* must also have a place. I very much doubt if there is another plant, except the *Delphinium*, that will give satisfaction like the *Perennial Phlox*.

Among summer-flowering herbaceous plants I would recommend planting *Liliums auratum*, *candidum*, *Chalcedonicum*, and *excelsum*.

There are, also, among perennials, some that make a very fine late autumn display, and which, if planted in any place where green is needed, will look well all summer and be in their glory



HYDRANGEA PANICULATA GRANDIFLORA.

after the others are gone. Among the blues we have the *Aconitum autumnale*, a tall, showy, pale-blue flower. It grows three feet in height, and is increased by division.



*Stokesia cyanea* is another handsome blue flower, which grows about twenty inches high, with flowers two inches across. It requires a dry, sandy soil and perfect drainage, or the roots will rot in winter. Increased by division.

*Plumbago Larpentæ* makes a good edging for tall plants. It grows about twelve inches high, and gives an abundance of very bright blue flowers. Increased by division.

Of white we have the *Anemone Japonica alba*, one of the best of perennials. It grows three feet high and covers itself with large, pure white flowers. It is much inclined to spread, and should have plenty of room. Increased by division and seed.

*Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* is a hardy, white-flowering shrub, and is a very satisfactory autumnal bloomer. The flowers are borne in large spikes, sometimes a foot long, and though not delicate are conspicuous and very persistent. The plant will grow in any soil, but does best in that which is slightly moist. It grows from two to five feet in height, and is increased by cuttings taken from the new growth.

*Lychnis flos cuculi* fl. pl., has been noticed among the summer-blooming perennials, but by being kept well cut its flowering period may be prolonged until freezing weather.

In red, we have the *Anemone Japonica*, a companion to, and possibly the parent of the white variety. This plant is the same in all respects except the flower, which is a pleasing shade of red.



CHRYSANTHEMUM INDICUM PLANT.

*Senecio pulcher* is from the far south, but is found at an elevation that ensures its hardiness in most places, where it can have very deep, light soil and perfect drainage. It grows three feet high, with large, glossy, deep green leaves, and large, crimson flowers, with golden-yellow centers. It is a beautiful perennial, appearing well all summer, and is perfectly distinct from every other plant that is worth a place, in the

flower garden. Increased by seed and division.

Next is the *Pentstemon Torreyi*, with scarlet flowers. Naturally this blooms all summer; it requires sandy soil, will grow five feet high, and is increased by division.

Of the yellow, first of all is *Helianthus multiflora* fl. pl., of which the normal, or single, form is a native of Mexico, but hardy as far



CHRYSANTHEMUM INDICUM FLOWER.

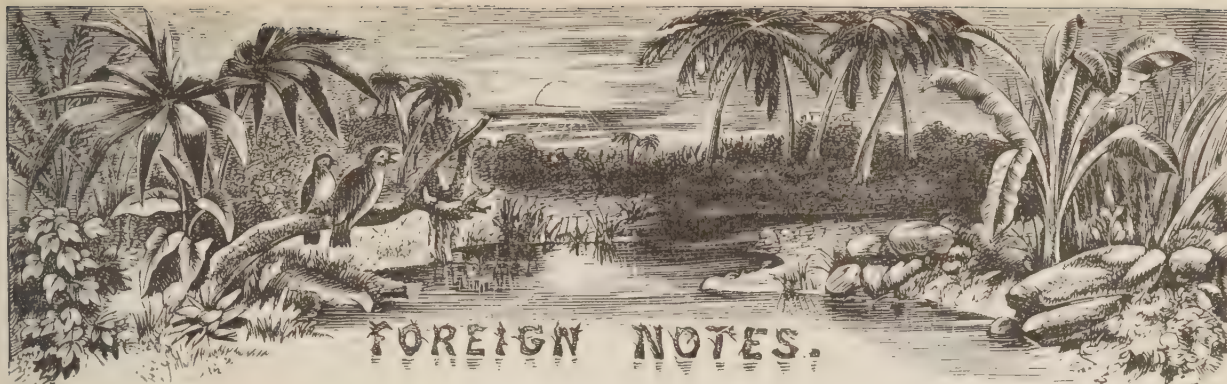
north as this, if planted in a dry soil, and even then should be divided every third spring to keep it in good condition. Though an old plant, it is quite scarce, and is one of the best of perennials. It grows about three feet high, and gives a liberal number of large and very double, golden-yellow flowers. Increased by division only.

There is now a class of hybrid *Chrysanthemums* which are not only hardy in dry soils, but which flower early enough to make a fine autumnal display. They may be had in various shades of yellow, also in darker shades of red and brown. Though very popular in Europe, this class of plants is not yet known to American cultivators, nor will it be until they call for it. The plants grow from twelve to twenty-four inches high, and are increased by division.

There is also a hybrid *Potentilla*, known as *Vase d' Or*, which, after flowering all summer, blooms well in autumn. It grows about sixteen inches high, and bears rose-shaped flowers of a pure golden-yellow color. Increased by division only.

The foregoing list of perennials has been carefully made, in view of the fact that but few people seem to be aware of the beautiful possibilities within their reach. It will be seen that form and color of flower, height, habit, period of blooming, method of increase, and hardiness in this latitude, have all been kept in view.—  
E. HUFTLEN, *LeRoy, N. Y.*





### FLOWERS ON WALLS.

Travelers in England and Scotland always admire the showy wild yellow Wallflowers that grow on the old walls. A late number of *Gardening Illustrated* recommends the cultivation of flowers on walls. "There is a way of growing flowers on walls in various countries which deserves more attention than it has received with us. It consists of leaving the upper portion of the terrace or wall hollow, and using this for flowers. The crest of the wall is, in fact, a narrow flower border; but though narrow, with a space of two or three feet of soil from one foot to three feet through, thus giving ample root room for the production of a vigorous and graceful vegetation. The architect or builder can easily arrange for such wall-vases. We have often seen very charming effects produced in this way on the Continent, even in poor houses where little evidence of other beauty was to be seen. By adopting the principle of variety instead of repetition in such cases, a beautiful garden of flowers might be grown on the crest of many a barren wall near, or part of, a town house. Hardy plants of a permanent character should always be chosen for such positions, and those with graceful foliage should have the preference. A top dressing of rich soil could be given yearly, and when well established, such plants as the smaller Yuccas, Acanthuses, &c., would make a charming effect."

### DINNER-TABLE DECORATIONS.

There can be no doubt that the fewer colors used on a dinner-table the better, inasmuch as when many colors are mixed together, one often destroys the other. Last September I was much pleased with a floral decoration for a dinner table which I saw at a local show in this neighborhood. It was a March vase, or stand, with trumpet glasses, and the flowers employed were the following: Blue *Salvia*, *S. patens*; hardy White Phlox, and *Anemone Honorine Jobert*, *Anemone Japonica*, with some Grasses and Maidenhair Fern fronds, a pleasing com-

bination when skilfully carried out. Although the competition was well contested, one could see at once on entering the tent that this was the best. I have seen some vases prettily filled with spring flowers alone, such as those of *Scilla Siberica* and colored single Primroses, using their own leaves to set them off, which they do to advantage.—J. C. in *The Garden*.

### CANADIAN VEGETABLES IN ENGLAND.

Our Canadian neighbors have been sending the products of their soil to the old country for exhibition. The samples were sent from Winnipeg and Toronto, and were exhibited at the Smithfield Club cattle show, at Liverpool. "Among them are a mammoth Squash, weighing 313 pounds, which was planted on May 1st and pulled on October 6th, thus showing an average growth of nearly two pounds a day; some Red Mangels grown by Mr. STOCK, one of which weighs seventy-three pounds, being the heaviest on record; Yellow Globe Mangel, fifty-eight pounds; Citrons, thirty-three pounds, and field Pumpkins, thirty-seven pounds."

### CULTIVATION OF CINCHONA TREES.

Nothing has yet been found to supercede medicinally Peruvian bark, or its essential products, and the quantity of it used is increasingly large. The market is now supplied, to a considerable extent, by cultivated plantations of the Cinchona trees. This industry will yet, doubtless, be developed in some parts of this country, particularly in Lower California. In India alone more than 8,000 acres are planted with Cinchonas; upwards of 5,000 in Ceylon. In Jamaica the product bids fair to increase rapidly.

ORCHARDISTS TAKE NOTICE.—A writer in an English journal states the "United States Apples are not so well packed, are in smaller barrels, and have a layer or two of fine fruit at the top of the barrel and inferior fruit below, while Canadian barrels are larger, contain fine fruit, firmly packed, and of uniform quality."



## NOTES AND REMINISCENCES.

For some time we have indulged in the hope of this Australia, more especially the Valley of the Murray, being at some future period the wine producing district for the world. Our hopes have, however, been somewhat dashed by the outbreak and spread of *Oidium* and *Phylloxera*. All sorts of specifics have been tried with no favorable result, and the legislature have it now in contemplation to order the destruction of all infected vineyards, in order to stamp out the disease. Should you, or any of your correspondents, know of any course that might effect an improvement, I shall be delighted to forward it to gentlemen who, having taken a warm interest in the matter, would be delighted to acknowledge the courtesy.

In a late number of your MAGAZINE you gave some very pleasant bits descriptive of Street Life in England. One character, "the pieman," I offer a few additional remarks about, which may be of interest. The pieman not only sold, but was open to other speculations; the pie was supposed to be of a standard commercial value, one penny, and his proposal for business was "'Ot pie, toss o' by," (Hot pie, toss or buy,) and the adventurer would "spin a copper," the pieman crying, "head or tail," as the case might be. If the pieman cried wrong he had to shell out the "'ot pie" for a half penny; au contraire, if he called right the spectator lost his half penny. It is, perhaps unnecessary to say that in any case the pieman was the winner, even if he always had to sell the pie at half penny, seeing that said pie was but a small bit of puff paste, and as to the meat or fruit it contained, it required a magnifying glass of high power to find it at all. In the meat pies, as DICKENS said, it was "all in the seasoning," and in the fruit ones the syrup did it.

Another well known street vender was the "baked taters, all 'ot" man, who carried a tin apparatus with charcoal fire under it, very similar to that of the pieman. This commercial did not condescend to pitch and toss. A "tater all 'ot, with butter," (awful oleaginous matter,) and salt was always a brown anglice, a half penny; and very many a homeless wanderer would, if possessed of the coin, "warm his hands and fill his stomach" by an investment with the "tater-can man."

I sent you, in my last, a notice of a peculiar Arum; it is now demonstrating in the direction of a bloom, and we are looking forward with much interest to its development. The protecting sheath, which encloses the supposed flower, is already about fifteen inches in length. —S. W. V., *Sandhurst, Australia*.

## MUSKMELONS RIPENED UNDER GROUND.

It is stated in the *Gartenflora*, a German Horticultural publication, that the Persians, who extensively cultivate Melons, cover the fruits with earth at a certain stage. This method is practised by Persians in the neighborhood of Tiflis, in the Caucasus. Only the choicest and best keeping variety, the true Dutma, is grown. It is a long, smooth kind, which attains a weight of 15 to 20 pounds, and will keep until Christmas. The deeply tilled ground is thrown up into beds a foot wide in spring, and the seed sown in a drill along the center. Finally the plants are left at a great distance apart, and irrigation is effected through the channels between the beds, so that no water touches the plants. The fruit sets in June, and only one or two are left on each shoot. When the fruit has reached the size of a man's fist the earth is hollowed out and the shoot (with the exception of the tip,) together with its fruit, is buried therein to a depth of one to one and a half inches, where it remains until the fruit is almost ripe. Considerable practical experience is necessary to be able to determine the exact moment when they should be unearthed. When the cultivator thinks the time has arrived, he withdraws the shoot and its fruit from the ground. This is done toward evening, and the fruit is left on the surface of the ground, attached to the shoot, and exposed to the dew of one night; but care is taken to cut the fruit the following morning before the sun can reach it. It is then hung in a cool, dark, dry place, until ready for eating.

## FROM GRAVE TO GAY.

It is singular how suitable flowers are, by way of decoration, under almost every circumstance of life. A few days since I took the last look at a young female friend, deceased, laid out for interment, and observed as a feature a beautifully chaste floral cross, made of the flowers of the Almond tree, laid on her breast; the coffin being lined with other flowers, principally the large flowers of the Lily of the Nile. The funeral obsequies over, chance took me to an evening assembly, where I noticed like elegant blossoms, admirably subserving the purpose of a head dress, or tiara; indeed, with us fresh gathered flowers are much more common for personal adornment than artificial ones or more tawdry decorations.—S.

BANANAS IN PANAMA.—In an official report on the trade and commerce at Panama, it is stated that from one Banana plantation, owned by a German, 250 tons of Bananas are sent by railroad to Colon every week, and shipped thence to New York.





### ALSIKE CLOVER.

One of the most prominent and reliable publications in relation to bees and honey, the *American Bee Journal*, of Chicago, in a late issue, has an interesting and instructive article upon Alsike Clover for bee pasturage. It was written by M. M. BALDRIDGE, one who has given great attention to bee culture for many years, and whose opinion upon this subject is worthy of respect and confidence. The writer states that "Alsike, or Sweedish Clover, *Trifolium hybridum*, as its name indicates, is a native of Sweden, where it grows wild—being both hardy and productive. It is commonly known by the name of Alsike, that being a parish in Sweden where this Clover originated. Alsike Clover is regarded by botanists as a hybrid between our common red and white Clovers." We would say, in passing, that its name, *Trifolium hybridum*, was given this plant by LINNÆUS, who recognized it as a cross between the White Clover, *T. repens*, and the Red Clover, *T. pratense*. "The stem and branches are finer and less woody than the common Red, and when cut and cured for hay, it is perfectly free from fuzz or dust. It does not turn black, but remains the color of well-cured timothy. It has, as the following cut shows, numerous branches and a multitude of blossoms which are rich in honey. The bees have no trouble in finding the honey, as the blossoms are short and heads no larger than White Clover. The blossoms at first are white, but soon change to a beautiful pink, and emit considerable fragrance. When sowed by itself, four pounds of seed is a great plenty for an acre; but this is not the best plan to pursue, especially with our dry western prairies. It is much better to mix Alsike with Timothy or the common Red, or with both. When thus mixed, they are a help to each other. The Alsike being a native of a cold climate, does not winter-kill, and besides, it acts as a mulch in winter and spring to the common Red, and keeps the latter from the effects of drouth. The Timothy and Red Clover being both upright growers, lift and

keep up the Alsike from the ground, which is very desirable. The stem of the Alsike is too fine to support its many branches in an upright position, and hence is more inclined to lodge than the common Red. For the reasons given, the combination of the three named plants is very important, and will prove successful wherever tried. When mixed, sow the usual quantity of Timothy and Red Clover, and not more than two pounds of Alsike seed to the acre; in fact, a pound will be ample.

"Alsike Clover as a fertilizer, must be as good a plant as Red Clover, if not better, as an



FIG. 1. ALSIKE CLOVER PLANT IN BLOOM.

examination of figures 2 and 3 will show. Having often dug up specimen roots of both Alsike and the common Red Clovers for comparison and exhibition, fully as much difference in the size of the crowns and the quantity of roots and rootlets have been found as the cuts indicate. The representations are very accurate, and the reader will do well to examine them closely and note the difference, which



seems to be decidedly in favor of the Alsike. Having now grown Alsike on a variety of soils for the past twelve years with good success, I know that what I have set forth in this article are facts and not theories. But the main object of this article is to call special attention of bee-

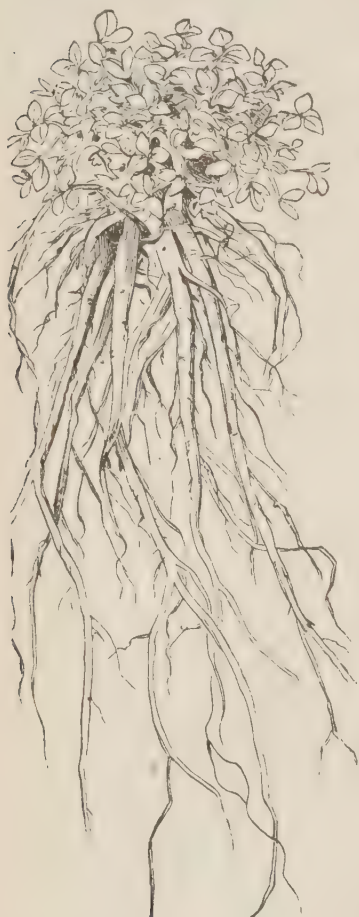


FIG. 2. Alsike Clover Root and Crown, one year old.



FIG. 3. Red Clover Root and Crown, one year old.

keepers to Alsike as a honey plant. It is well known to the fraternity that my favorite honey plant is Melilot Clover, than which none better has yet been found in the United States. But Melilot will never be cultivated to any extent except by bee-keepers, as no farmer would think of such a thing as growing it for hay or pasture. But Alsike Clover is a plant that every farmer can and should cultivate, whether he keeps bees or not, as it is superior to the common Red, for hay or pasture, for all kinds of stock. One hundred acres of Alsike, mixed with other grasses, in full bloom during June and July, in the neighborhood of one hundred colonies of bees, would insure a large crop of the choicest honey every year, and cause the bee-keeper to swing his hat with joy."

If farmers generally do not sow Alsike Clover, bee-keepers are advised to recommend it, and, if necessary, to purchase seed and give it away for sowing in their own neighborhoods.

Alsike Clover seed can now be bought at a moderate price, about \$25 per hundred. Our

experience seems to show that this Clover will not succeed on very dry, sandy soils, but does admirably on strong land. A few years since we sowed about three acres on a piece of waste land, merely to keep down the weeds. It grew handsomely and seeded abundantly. The seeds became scattered, and now this Clover can be found by the roadsides for a long distance, and White Clover in the neighborhood has become hybridized by it, so that many of our White Clover flowers are pink, and the plants twice the size of the pure White Clover.

### THE SNOW PLANT.

It's not of the dark-eyed Pansy,  
That I would sing to-night,  
Nor yet of the gentle Roses,  
Nor the coquet Daisy, bright;  
But, sitting here in the gloaming,  
I am taken by fancy sweet  
To a range of snow-capped mountains,  
And the beauty that lies at their feet.

There are clouds of white in the heavens,  
Chasms of white below—  
Everywhere, everywhere round us  
Unsullied whiteness of snow;  
But, oh! from the snow grows a wonder,  
The bright little Snow-plant rare,  
The only flower of the desert  
Braving the icy air.

For weary ages it blossomed,  
With none but the birds to see,  
While the water that mirrored its graces  
Flowed on to eternity.  
When over the grand Sierras,  
In the early morning hours,  
There came to the hidden beauty  
A thoughtful lover of flowers.\*

Forgotten were all past wonders,  
Forgotten gigantic trees,  
While he bent in silent rapture  
O'er a rarer wonder than these.  
Ice-cold was the fairy stranger,  
With perfume sweetly faint,  
Deep crimson its leaves and petals,  
Like the blood of a martyred saint.

But, alas! like the dreams of mortal  
That vanish at break of day,  
When the golden thread is loosened  
And our ships sail far away,  
So, this ice-cold gem of the mountains  
No sooner had been attained  
Than its glorious beauty vanished,  
Its perfume alone remained.

Oh! dainty queen of my musings,  
Herein lies your hidden power,  
'Tis the mystery that surrounds you,  
O, wonderful, magical flower.  
No art may entice you to wander,  
Your subjects must come to you,  
And, kneeling afar—in the distance—  
Your loveliness only view.

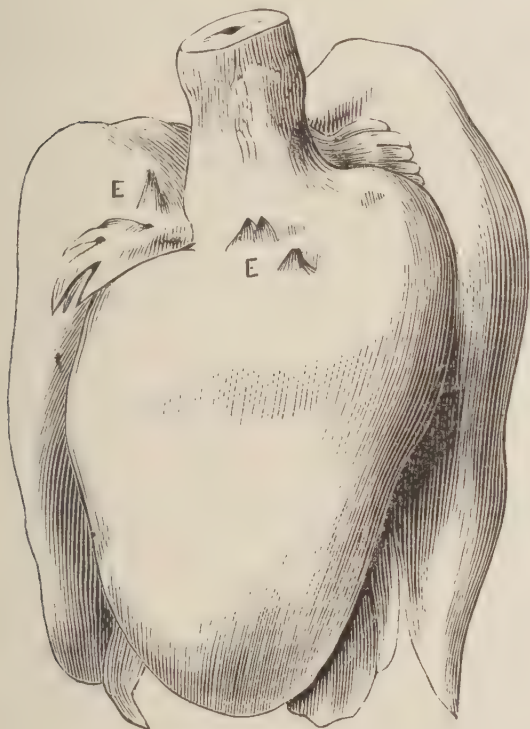
—MRS. F. A. TOWNS, Rochester, N. Y.

\*Suggested by the incident related by Mr. JAMES VICK, in the January MAGAZINE.



### DAHLIA BUDS.

MR. JAMES VICK :—I take the liberty to drop you a few lines asking for information about Dahlia roots. Last spring one year ago I bought some, and they bloomed nicely; at one time one of the plants had thirty-three flowers on. I thought it was the prettiest thing I ever saw. In the fall I took up the roots and put them in the cellar, and they kept over nicely. In the spring the roots were as firm as could be, so in May I planted them out in the ground, but they never grew. In August I dug up the roots to see what was the matter, and the bulbs were still as firm as they could be—they had never sprouted the least particle. Now, if you will let me know in some way what is the cause, and how to treat them to make them grow, I will be very thankful to you for your kindness.—Mrs. J. E., Craig, Holt Co., Mo.



The buds of the Dahlia tubers which grow out from the plant, are usually situated on the top of the tuber, as shown in the engraving, but sometimes on the neck, or stem. If on the stem, and this is removed before planting, the tuber will remain in the ground perfectly sound the whole summer, and without showing the slightest change, as described by our correspondent. There were no buds on the tubers planted, or for some reason they failed to grow.

### VERBENAS—ROSES—WINDOW-PLANTS.

MR. VICK :—Will Verbenas from the best seed produce as fine trusses of flowers as those purchased from the greenhouse, and that are struck from cuttings?

Would the following be good treatment for tender Roses: to procure young rooted plants, say in March, pot them, keep them in a window for a month, then plunge them in a hot-bed.

Are Cissus discolor, Clerodendrum, Spotted Caladium, Maranta Zebrina, suitable for widow plants partly shaded?—C. Y., Ontario.

Verbenas raised from seed, like all other seedling plants, are varied. Some have large trusses of fine, large flowers, others, while the

trusses may be large enough, the flowers are smaller, or the flowers large and the trusses small, with many other variations, both in form and color. But seedling plants are so much more vigorous than those from cuttings, and especially plants that are removed by more than one year or generation from seedling plants, that they are preferable to named varieties that have been for some time propagated by cuttings. The flowers of seedling Verbenas usually have more fragrance than those of cuttings, and the bloom is more profuse; every shade of color is produced, and for mixed beds, and for cut flowers there is no question of a great advantage in raising the plants every year from seed.

The young Roses that have been kept in the window for a month after potting we should prefer to plunge, or to plant out of doors, rather than to place in hot-bed. If they should be placed in a cold-frame, the last of March, after potting, they would come along without forcing and, having the air freely admitted as the season advances, would be prepared to move to the open ground at the earliest opportunity.

The plants mentioned may thrive as window plants, in some exceptional cases, but as a rule they are not adapted to this purpose; they are hot-house plants; if one has a window-conservatory, the heat and moisture of which can be completely controlled, such plants can be managed, but for ordinary window-gardening it is a waste of time to spend it on them.

### UNTHRIFTY PLANTS.

JAMES VICK :—Will you please tell me what is the cause of buds on Geraniums turning yellow? Also, tell me how to treat the Wax Plant and Passion Flower; the former we have had for five years, and it has never bloomed. Is it well to have these plants in earth in the corner of the conservatory? We had some California Lily bulbs given us last winter, the flowers of which were very fragrant and resembled the Narcissus. This winter they do not show any signs of flowering. Is there any particular treatment?—M. B. S., Woodstock, Ontario.

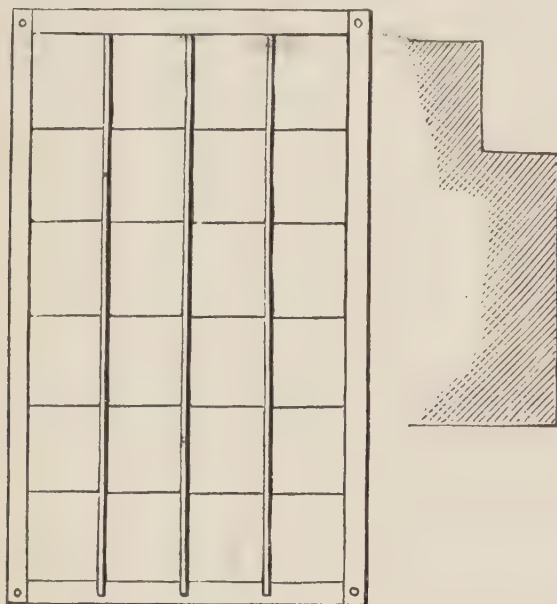
Although we are given no particulars in reference to the conservatory here alluded to, the date of the inquiries (January 4th,) suggests that the Geraniums may be receiving too much water at a time when the temperature is very low. The Wax Plant and the Passion Vine should be brought up out of "the corner" and given a place where they will have plenty of light and heat. Neither of these plants, during winter, require much water, but when they commence to grow it may be used more plentifully. If the Lily bulbs should not bloom it will be best to turn them into the garden in the spring, in a rich, mellow spot, planting them down at least six inches deep. Here they will have a chance to increase in strength and vigor.



## HOT-BED SASH.

JAMES VICK:—What is the most convenient size of sash for hot-beds? What size glass, and about what will each sash cost? How heavy should the lumber be that sash is made from?—J. R. J., *Rushsylvania, O.*

For our own use, we have found a sash measuring three feet two inches by five feet three inches to be most convenient. Such a sash will contain twenty-four lights of glass, each eight by ten inches. The rails furnished with tenons are let into mortices in the styles, and secured by wedges and pins; the bars are similarly connected with the upper rail, and at the bottom the square part of the bar butts against the rail, while the tongue projects over it and is fastened with a nail. The lumber used is good pine, and all the pieces, excepting



the lower rail, are made of stuff an inch and a half in thickness, and which, when finished, is an inch and three-eighths. The lower rail is one inch thick and three inches wide. The sash bars are an inch and an eighth wide. The bars are rabbeted on each side, and the styles on the inside, to receive the glass. The upper rail may be rabbeted in the same manner, or it can be grooved, and the glass set under or in the groove. The rabbet is cut a quarter inch wide and three-eighths of an inch deep. An end view of half a sash bar is shown in the illustration, giving the full thickness and half the width of the bar. A quarter of an inch lap of the glass is all that is necessary, and about a half inch lap on the lower rail. The glass should be well tacked in, and additional tacks placed at the bottom of the lights at both edges to prevent slipping down. The sash should have one or two coats of paint before glazing. The glass should be bedded in putty, and, after tacking, have one or two thin coats of paint along each edge. No putty will be necessary outside of the glass.

## AZALEAS.

MR. JAMES VICK:—You encourage correspondence and are very indulgent to ignorance. I venture, therefore, to come to you with some questions about pot Azaleas. These plants bloom, as we all know, in the very early spring, and the flowers are succeeded by the growth of new leaves. In the summer, all authorities agree, the plants should be sunk in a partially shaded place. It would appear, then, that the summer, after the period of growth, is their natural season of rest, and that, as they bloom so early, the buds must be maturing in winter. It seems to follow that, when taken into the house, the plants should, after a few days, have plenty of water and sunshine. But my Azaleas thus treated droop, the leaves turn yellow, and the under side is covered with minute black dots, among which I have occasionally discovered a few yellowish aphidæ. The bloom is scattering and poor. Will you kindly tell me in your MAGAZINE wherein I have probably erred in my treatment of my plants.—A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER, *Boston, Mass.*

Possibly too much water has been given these plants. In fall and early winter considerable care is necessary to supply Azaleas with just enough water to keep them moist, and not too much. The watering should be done in the early part of the day, when it will have an opportunity to evaporate in part before night. Give the plants the full sunlight; turn them on their sides and syringe or sprinkle the foliage two or three times a day; give air every day when the weather is favorable, and keep a temperature of 50° to 55°. Maintaining a moist atmosphere will tend to rid the plants of the "yellowish aphidæ," which are probably thrips; if they should become too numerous, fumigating with tobacco will destroy them. In February and March, as the days become longer and the sun stronger, more water can be given than early in the season.

## CAPE JESSAMINE.

MR. VICK:—Will you be kind enough to let me know through your MAGAZINE, what can be done to cause the Cape Jessamine to flourish in this climate? We have made several attempts and failed each time. The last plant we bought was a large one, costing about \$2.50, but it, like its predecessors, now begins to turn yellow, and we fear it will die. Our cultivation of other plants has been very successful. What peculiar treatment should this have? Your MAGAZINE is highly prized.—Mrs. F. M. E., *Mechum's River, Va.*

We give the above inquiry and statement, but make no attempt at reply, as we are not informed relative to the hardiness of the Cape Jessamine in Albemarle county, Va. Will not some of our Virginia readers, who succeed with this plant in the open ground, relate their experience with it for the benefit of others? Is this plant hardy at Washington?

LATE BLOOMING FLOWERS.—Up to the 10th of November the Japan Anemone and Tritoma uvaria were blooming profusely and making a fine display in our grounds.



## BEST VARIETIES OF DAHLIAS.

MR. VICK:—I purchased a few Dahlia roots last spring that were to be fine varieties. After giving them a trial, I am glad to inform you I have not been disappointed, as, with two or three exceptions, they were exceedingly fine. I exhibited them, with others, at our county fair, for which a premium was awarded. The varieties, John McPherson, Mirefield Beauty, Fanny Purchase, Incomparable, and two or three others I could name, were among the finest; the blooms were so perfect and symmetrical in form that scarcely a petal seemed to have been disarranged. If it will not be too much trouble, please insert in the *MAGAZINE* the names of a few of the best varieties you have. It is not material whether the varieties are new or old.—S. M., *Canton, O.*

Our published list of Dahlias in the *GUIDE* gives the information here requested better than we can state it otherwise. That list contains only first-class varieties, but among them one would probably select a dozen that he considers the best, while another, in such a selection, might choose a part or the whole of the number of other kinds. The selection is so much a matter of fancy that it would be difficult to decide upon a few kinds that all would agree upon. Again, we have learned that some kinds do better on some soils than others; and that soils differently constituted produce the colors or shades slightly different in some varieties; sorts that are merely indifferent with us have proved excellent elsewhere, and some of our best kinds have failed to give a good account of themselves in some places.

## SUITABLE AND UNSUITABLE PLANTS.

I have seven very handsome Gladioli raised from seed, and last year I raised fourteen Carnations from one paper of seed. I hope to have winter-bloomers among them. I have generally been very successful, and when I have met with failure it has been from other cause than poor seed.

Can you give me any information in regard to the treatment of the English Holly? Would it do better if kept in the cellar through the winter? Will it bear much pruning? Does it require much water? How is it propagated? I have one, brought me from Liverpool six years ago. It does not grow in the winter; in the summer it sends up a number of shoots from the ground which grow about one foot or a little more and stop. It has always retained its leaves until this fall, when they all dropped off—I don't know why. It bore a few berries last summer for the first time.—P. S. Y., *New Casco, Maine.*

We have no doubt it will be a gratification to cultivate the Gladiolus and Carnation plants that have been raised from seed, for the reason that the necessary conditions to their healthy growth can be secured to them. But the time and labor spent with the Holly will be lost; the plant is not adapted to the climate, and will never thrive there. Better to give it up at once and devote your attention to something more suitable to the climate, and that will surely succeed.

## A PLEA FOR WHITE CLOVER.

From far away in the past come frequent recollections of the saintly face and gentle tones of one who trod tenderly along the by-ways of the earth, loitering longest amidst her humblest children. Wherever the pretty White Clover interlaced its creeping fringes close to the ground, and lifted its white crowns toward the sunlight, there she lingered longest, with always a smile on her lips and a word of praise extolling this plant which was to her the loveliest of nature's groundwork.

From her I learned to love, in early life, the pretty trefoil with its humble, unpretentious blossoms. Many a time have I lifted tiny sods of it and placed them where they would make clean and sweet some unsightly spot; often pulled an intruding weed and in the loosened soil have placed a pot of White Clover, that it might get a foothold and make a "right of way" for itself. The honey bees buzzed me their thanks as they smuggled the sweets, and I was a conscious victor in having consecrated to kindly, wholesome uses a portion of unregenerate soil. Not all who live in the wide-spread country places can have their well-kept velvet lawns, however much admired; and among those who can, many a nook and corner there may be that might be kept perennially clean and fresh-looking by a seeding of White Clover.

The grasses are beautiful always, when kept well mown; but there are homes where this is not the case, and then how much more tidy-looking a stretch of White Clover which, when once started, takes care of itself. This, with many people, must be the plea for its more general culture about plain country homes. But are there not others who will gladly give it a footing in some spot near their homes for the sake of its own intrinsic beauty and merit?—BUCKEYE WOMAN.

## AN ARUM.

MR. VICK:—Mrs. V. has a curious plant, of which she sends a rough sketch with some description, and requests any explanation you can give her. She has an idea it is a Japanese Lily. The plant is about three feet in height, with a scape or stem about two inches in diameter, irregularly mottled green and white. The leaves are dark green, with white markings about a quarter of an inch in length, on either side of the center veining. It is evidently an Arum. Will you kindly give us your verdict, and will it bloom?—S. W. V., *Australia.*

From the above description and the accompanying drawing, we judge the plant here mentioned is either Arum crinitum, or A. Dracunculum. It will bloom as soon as it has completed its growth. In a former volume an illustration of leaf and flower was given of A. Dracunculum.



### THE YUCCAS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

The *Journal of Applied Science* notices some of the economical purposes of the Yuccas native of New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California. *Y. baccata* grows from two to eighteen feet high, and further south it is said to become a tall tree with a stem from eight to twenty inches in diameter. The fruit of this plant is eaten, both in a fresh and a dried state. The leaves afford abundant fibre, and slices of the stem are first beaten and then used as soap. The Indians of Southern California make horse blankets of the fibre of this plant, and in all parts of the country where it grows it is employed in making ropes, nets, mattresses, shoes, and hair brushes. This material will prove valuable for the manufacture of paper.

*Yucca brevifolia* is another species that promises well for a paper material; this plant produces an abundance of large seeds, the albuminous portion of which, when ground, constitutes a fine flour, and is eaten cooked as mush. The leaves of *Yucca Whipplei* afford a soft, white fibre that may be made into good thread. The Indians use this fibre for padding horse blankets. The seeds of this species are ground into flour, like those of the preceding one; the young, tender flower-spikes are eaten either raw or roasted.

One of the commonest kinds of *Yucca* is *Y. angustifolia*, and this is said to yield the finest fibre, and to be well adapted to manufacturing purposes. The flower stems of this species, also, are eaten, and its root used as soap.

### SELECTED NORWAY SPRUCE TREES.

The *Country Gentleman* notices differences in the appearance and habits of the Norway Spruce. Its remarks are based on three specimens "planted more than twenty years ago, and now about thirty-five feet high. A difference was observed in their growth at the time they were set out, when about three feet high, some being free and luxuriant in foliage, with somewhat drooping branches, while others were sparse in foliage and stiff in form. That difference became gradually more developed as they advanced in years, and their appearance is now very distinct. This evergreen, as well as other trees, runs into varieties when raised from seed, and this variation is to be expected. The practical hint which we offer to purchasers who buy them by the hundred for setting out as screens, is to select the few which begin to exhibit this rich drooping habit, and set them apart for ornamenting the lawn; and to nurserymen, to make a similar selection and put a higher price on these selected trees."

We regard this as excellent advice, and, as

the Norway Spruce is our main dependence among coniferous trees, nurserymen will find customers that are willing to pay the extra cost; but not many of such reasonable purchasers can be expected immediately, for the public must be educated to the idea. A small stock of such selected trees raised every year will, in time, cause an increased demand for them.

### COCO GRASS.

JAMES VICK.—In an article in regard to Coco Grass, you have been led into error in supposing sugar plantations have been abandoned on account of it. Not so; all the sugar plantations on the Mississippi River as well as Bayou Lafourche, and all the gardens, or nearly all, in New Orleans are infested with it, but it does not prevent them from being cultivated, but adds to the labor on account of its rapid growth. Should you desire to give your Texas correspondent a remedy, allow me to suggest covering the infected portion, and extending somewhat beyond the edges, with fresh manure, say a foot or over in depth; the heat arising therefrom will burn up the grass, and the exclusion of light and air, in the course of time, will rot the roots, but it requires patience and perseverance to succeed.—JOHN ROBERTSON, *New Orleans, La.*

AZALEA CULTURE.—We have received from the author and publisher, R. J. HALLIDAY, of Baltimore, the little manual of a hundred pages, with the above title, that he has just sent out as companion to his "Camellia Culture." Written by a practical gardener upon a subject that he has thoroughly mastered it must be regarded as of the highest authority to Azalea growers, and will doubtless prove a valuable assistance in the culture of this beautiful plant.

SOWING CHINESE PRIMROSE SEED.—This month is the proper time to sow seed of Chinese Primrose for early plants; for plants to come in later, a second sowing can be made in April or May. Sow seed in a pot, or box, on some finely sifted soil just moistened, with the least sprinkle of sand to cover; place a pane of glass over.

THE RICINUS IN CALIFORNIA.—MARY F. MOORE, of Mendocino Co., California, writes, "You class the *Ricinus* among the annuals, but mine, from seed you sent me, lived four years, and was beautiful nearly all the time."

SOILED FLOWER POTS.—Can any of your readers inform me how I can get rid of the white stuff that appears on the outside of flower pots? Washing only takes part off? How is it caused?—H. H., *Quebec.*



## NELUMBIUM LUTEUM.

The *Nelumbium* has been thought to grow in very few places in this country, but as the facts become known it is learned that it flourishes in many more localities than supposed. A writer in a cotemporary paper states that he has "seen it in many localities West, where people did not seem to know or care anything about it, although an acre or two in full bloom is beautiful, novel, and almost bewildering. It grows at several places in Indiana, also within a mile or two of Lake Michigan, at the head of the lake, in Illinois, near the Indiana line, also in Minnesota. Last summer I saw it in a bayou of the Missouri River, in Western Iowa. A few weeks ago I saw a very large plat of it three or four miles from Charleston, in South-eastern Missouri." He further states that it grows in a marsh on Fox River, Lake County, Illinois, and they are introducing it into Dead River, a sluggish stream near Waukegan, Ill.



We have received from a lady in this city some seeds of the *Nelumbium*, and in a note accompanying them she says: "A friend in Kansas has sent me a quantity of the seeds of *Nelumbium luteum*, the Golden Lotus, gathered by Indian children at Lake Neosho, in that State. I am told the Lotus thrives and blooms as freely there as in the bayous of Louisiana, though the winters are quite as severe as our own."

As this beautiful plant, with only a little care, may be introduced into many parts of the country where there are ponds, bogs and slow moving streams, we will supply any of our readers who may apply in time, sending a three cent stamp, with enough of the seeds to make a trial. A number of little boxes with bottom and top of open slats could be filled with soil, and have two or three seeds in each one, and then be let down gradually to the bottom of the water by a string. A piece of sod at the bottom of the box and another at the top would prevent the soil from washing out, or the seeds from being displaced. How many of our readers will attempt, in this way to make Dame Nature smile?

## EGYPTIAN ART IN HORTICULTURE.

The designs that have been presented by a correspondent in the present number and previously, showing the adaptation of the ancient Egyptian style of architecture and ornamentation to fences, gates, vases &c., exhibit the skill of the artist, and the availability of the style for this special purpose. There may be, doubtless, places where this style of ornament can be employed, but they are not common. The use of vases in Egyptian style, and painted red, blue and yellow, we consider particularly objectionable. Good taste dictates that a plant or flower vase should be of a form suited to its purpose, graceful in outline, elegant in its proportions, and of some undertoned color, or, perhaps, more properly, of some soft, neutral tint. The vase must in nowise be obtrusive, but subservient; its glory is the mass of plants and flowers with which it is crowned, and nothing about the vase itself should be allowed to detract from this glory, or weaken its effect.

Nor is it necessary, in an art sense, in the employment of this ancient art style for Horticultural purposes, to use the primary colors, as the Egyptians did, in connection with it. We may borrow their strength, but not their weakness. They strove to express themselves in their art to the best of their ability, but modern ideas in relation to colors forbid an indiscriminate copying of their primitive methods.

## THE ENJOYMENT OF NATURE.

JAMES VICK:—I was greatly pleased with a letter in your valuable MAGAZINE for November, with the title, "My Rhode Island Garden," written by an aged gentleman in his seventy-fourth year. He just expressed my mind when he said, "If my life was spared, and I was a man of means, I should feel pleasure in cultivating an endless variety of the beauties of Nature our Heavenly Father has given us to beautify and make pleasant our homes." I am an old man in my seventy-seventh year. My life, until lately, has been spent mostly in the busy city, where not much was seen but brick walls and paved streets. But from my youth I have been charmed with the sight of flowers, and wild vegetation I have specially admired. When I have gone with the Sunday School on our anniversary days, into the country, my greatest pleasure has been to see the wild forms of Nature's beauties, and many times have I left my friends among their pleasures and sports while I have gone along the hedge rows, and sat among the shrubbery, or in the woods to feast my eyes on Nature.

Circumstances have been such that I have never had the pleasure of raising flowers and



admiring their beauties or learning their names; but since I gave up business I have given some attention to them, and have studied GRAY'S "*School and Field Book of Botany*." For the last two years have been a subscriber to your valuable ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, and I believe I have read every article as it appeared, and have received various and valuable information while doing so.

I sometimes take a walk into the country, on the common, or into the woods and gather wild flowers and Ferns, which gives me real pleasure, and many happy hours of pure enjoyment, and so helps to make the evening of life mellow and sweet. It is always a pleasure to receive a dried specimen of any rare Fern. I am a solitary old man, belonging to another generation; friends are all gone home, and while they are enjoying the presence of Him they loved on earth, I am meditating on his wonderful works.  
—W. FARNELL, *Macon, Ga.*

#### VARIOUS INQUIRIES.

A SUBSCRIBER wishes us to "state whether in re-potting the *Amaryllis* the old roots should be trimmed off or not." Any roots that may be broken or mutilated in any way should be cut off, but those that are sound left on.

One inquires if it "hurts Lilies to be planted where it is partially shaded with trees." A little shade is welcome to Lilies, but it is not well for them to be directly under trees, nor where they do not have that light, during a great portion of the day, that is necessary for their healthy growth.

MRS. G. G., says, "please mention the best soil for *Begonias*." A reply to this query may be found on page 44 of this number.

HATTIE M. C. inquires "whether the *Calla* can be kept dormant through the winter, and be made to blossom in the summer?" There is no difficulty in doing this. The root can be kept in any place that is secure from frost, and where the temperature is not very high. We have kept them in cool rooms in sand, but find the root cellar to be the best place, on account of the even temperature and the sufficient moisture in the atmosphere; they are merely laid away on a shelf and receive no attention. Placed on a shelf in any good cellar, they could probably be kept as long as desired.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN OREGON.—MRS. CARTER, of Wells, Oregon, wrote us, on the 24th of December, "I gathered a nice bouquet of flowers this morning, of Pansies, Ten-weeks Stock, and Chrysanthemums. I suppose this is something you can't do."

#### SALT FOR CELERY.

The *Utica Herald* relates the account of a person who had a trench of Celery and brought out a barrel of brine and set it near the trench. A rain came on, and by some means the barrel was knocked over and its contents was washed into the trench. The rain continued for a week, and during this time the leaves of the Celery became very yellow; but the leaves stood up well, "and in the fall there was a most magnificent crop in the trench, the finest being where there was the most salt." The person who makes the above statement has, ever since the occurrence related, used salt on his Celery very liberally, "and has never failed in raising a splendid growth."

Salt has been used and recommended for Celery for a long time, but we never heard before of any marked results from its use. From the fact that its use is not common, we doubt if its use has been found very greatly beneficial. If any of our readers are aware of any facts bearing on this subject we should like to hear from them in relation to it.

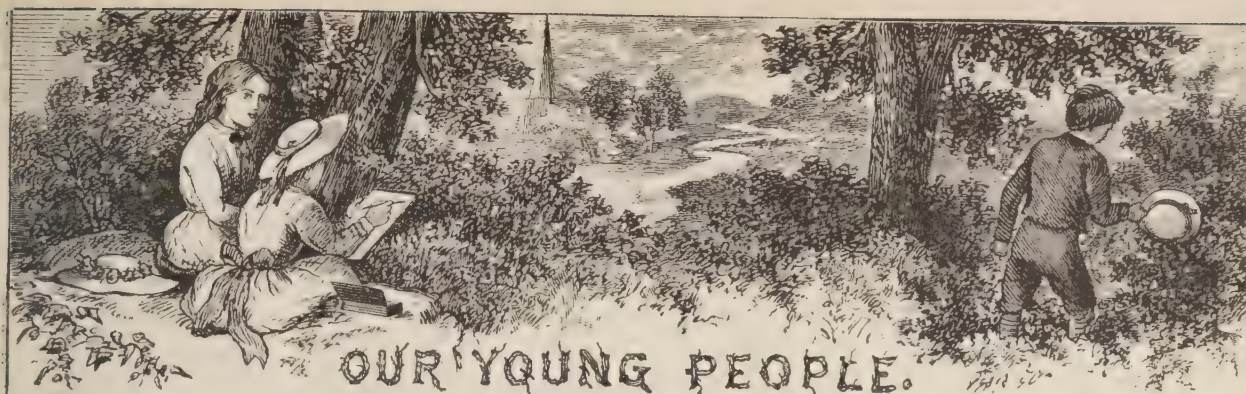
#### A COLD WINTER.

A wail comes up from all quarters of the death of pet plants by the severe cold weather. A lady in Richmond, Virginia, over the signature of "DISTRESS," writes of some of her favorites, and then adds, "Our *Begonia Rex*, with all the family, and the *Zonale* and *Scented Geraniums*, and *German Ivy* have gone the way of all flowers that are not prepared for zero weather. This is the first time in eighteen years that my plants have been killed; and such plants, they were no long-legged, dusty, yellow-leaved plants, but healthy, all of them. Did you hear a strange noise in Rochester? Well, it was your correspondent crying for sympathy to all flower lovers."

Intensely cold weather prevailed in nearly all parts of the country during the last week of December. The Orange crop in Florida was more or less injured, but whether the trees have suffered much we have not yet learned.

THE PRESS OF AMERICA.—There are over ten thousand different publications in America, and with all these we have more or less correspondence during the year. In this work we are much aided by the excellent publications of the leading advertising agents, such as GEO. P. ROWELL & CO., of New York, and N. W. AYER & SON, of Philadelphia. These books not only give the names, location, and character of the newspapers, magazines, etc., but, in most cases, the circulation.





## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

### THE PLANT IN THE WINDOW.

One beautiful afternoon in September I strolled along slowly, the weather being quite warm and the streets dusty. I passed to the more quiet part of the town, and soon began to notice a poor traveler who walked before me. He had a staff in his hand, and his whole appearance indicated that he had walked many weary miles. At last he sat down upon the doorstep of an humble cottage, and took off his hat and wiped the perspiration from his forehead, sighing heavily as he did so. It was then I got the first view of his honest but dejected face. Prompted by sympathy and compassion, I approached him.

"My friend," said I, "you seem to have been walking quite a distance."

He looked a little startled when I spoke, but smiling replied, "Oh, yes, ma'am, I've walked the streets of this city for several days; but all to no purpose." A heavy sigh escaped him and he looked almost overcome with despair.

"You are the first person who has looked at or spoken to me kindly, ma'am, since I reached this place, and I feel as if you would kindly listen to my tale of sorrow. I think it would ease my heart a little to tell it to some kind-hearted person."

"Certainly," said I, "I would take an interest in your story."

"It is not much of a story, ma'am, but you shall hear of my troubles. I am getting to be an old man, but until lately I have lived a happy life. Married to a good wife, and having one dear child to make sunshine in our humble home, my years have passed quietly and pleasantly away. Twelve years ago last month our little Lucy was born. At first she was so little and feeble we thought we could not keep her long, but she grew healthy and sprightly, and never seemed to want to keep still. So she went dancing and jumping about, and singing like a little mocking bird. Then, as she grew larger, she was so handy and kind, always ready to wait on her old father and mother.

She got strong, and plump, too, and her cheeks were like Roses, while her eyes were dark and gentle. Oh! ma'am, I never saw a sweeter child than my little Lucy. She was so affectionate and kind. She petted everything around her that would let her. How she cared for and petted her flowers, as if they could feel and love her for taking such care of them!"

Here the tears trickled down the poor man's cheeks. I said, softly, "And your little Lucy is dead?"

"He shook his head mournfully as he answered, "Oh, ma'am, that is what I do not know. Sometimes I fear so. Let me tell you how it was. Six months ago I had to leave my little family to be gone about four weeks. As my wife's health was poor, she concluded to take Lucy and go to a little watering place to board while I was gone, as our doctor had advised her to do. So we parted, promising to write to each other often. I started on my journey, but was taken so sick on the way that I scarcely know how I got to New Orleans; but I managed to get off the cars and into the depot. Then I fainted, and can't remember anything more for weeks and weeks. Some one found me, and had me taken to a hospital, where I was kindly treated. My pockets had been picked, and not even a paper of any kind was left to tell those who waited on me who I was and where I came from. I was very near dying, they told me, for a long time, and raving in delirium when I was not in a stupor. A kind woman used to help nurse me, and I imagined she was Mary, my wife, and so was satisfied. But, oh, ma'am, when I came to my proper senses, and found how long I had been sick, and my poor wife and child knowing nothing of it, I was almost beside myself. The doctor kindly went to the postoffice and found a budget of letters for me. He saw that one was striped around with black and was afraid to let me see it, so he slipped it in his pocket and gave me the others. I looked at the postmarks and opened the first one. It was a short one from Mary. She said she felt tired from



her journey and could not write much. The next one was from Lucy, all full of fun and life, but saying, 'Mother has not got over her tired feelings yet.' All the others were from Lucy, poor child. She kept saying, 'Mother gets no better; I am getting uneasy about her, and why don't you write, father.' I had read all but the last letter. My heart turned so sick I felt I hadn't the strength to open it; but then I was so anxious I felt I must. The poor child could write nothing but 'O, father, do come! Poor mother is going fast. What shall I do? She doesn't even know me.' I called to the doctor, and told him I must go right home. He saw I was excited, and I told him what news I had had. He thought then I was prepared for the letter he had in his pocket, and he gave it to me. When I saw the black stripes on it I fainted, and for a long time, again, I was very low. Slowly I began to mend, and, as soon as I could write, sent letters to friends at home and obtained money, but none of them knew anything of my wife and child. Then I went to the place where they had been, but no one there knew much about my poor child. They said she had gone to C—— with a lady who had been kind to her, but they did not remember her name. So I came here, and I have tried in my poor way to find my little Lucy, but I am afraid she has grieved herself to death."

The poor man's sad story so moved me that I proposed to him to accompany me to my home, saying that my husband would do what he could on the morrow to assist him in his search. He gratefully accepted my offer, and we slowly turned our steps in the direction of my home. On the way he said, "I believe that I shall find my little Lucy if she is alive. I gaze at every window as I pass, and look for a little pot with a flower in it. She was so fond of one plant she had, that I know she will never part with it. She carried it with her in the cars, and the last look I had of her was with it in her arms. I don't know the name of the flower, ma'am, but it had red flowers, and seemed to bloom all the time."

Even as he spoke, we passed by a house where was one little pot on the window-sill, containing a plant with red blossoms. The poor man stopped. Tremblingly he said, "Oh, ma'am, that is like Lucy's plant. Kind Father in Heaven, grant that it may be hers."

Just then a little girl, pale and thin, and dressed in a black dress, came and lifted the pot carefully and took it inside the room.

"Lucy! Lucy!" cried the old man, trembling from head to foot. The familiar tones reached her, and she came running out where we stood. Such a meeting I never witnessed

—such grief and such joy! At last, after many tears and embraces, the father turned and said:

"My little Lucy is here; I cannot leave her."

"No, no," cried Lucy, "come in father; my kind friend, Mrs. Palmer, will be so glad to know you have come. She has been so good to me, and was so kind to poor mother." Then, taking her father by the hand, she carried him in, after warmly inviting me to enter with them.

I returned to my home in haste, as it was getting dark and I feared my absence would create anxiety in my household. Here I found my little ones wondering where mamma could have gone, and my husband beginning to think of going in search of me.

The next day, when walking out, I met little Lucy and her father. They recognized me, and seemed to feel very grateful for the kindness I had shown. They told me they were going back to their home; they were to leave the next day, and cordially invited me to visit them. I have never availed myself of the invitation, and have not since heard from them, but I have no doubt the little pot stands in the window, and that Lucy loves it more than ever.—SIDNEY EMMETT.

#### DISCONTENT.



In a lonely bog  
Lives a polliwog  
Wishing he's a frog.

Comes a hungry snake  
Polliwog to take  
For his stomach's sake.

Woggie can't contrive  
Why he shouldn't thrive;  
Think's he better dive.

Snakie sees the dodge,  
Slips into the podge  
Woggie to dislodge,

Woggie knows a trick—  
Seizes very quick  
In his mouth a stick.

Snakie says "O, ho!  
Never did I know

Horns on frogs to grow; and I never in the world can swallow those things; didn't want the polliwog anyway; no flavor; nothing but full grown frogs are fit to eat. I'll go home and pick my teeth and make believe." And now

In a lonely bog  
Lives a polliwog  
Glad he's not a frog!

—PROXY.





### THE IVORY PALM.

One of the most singular trees of tropical countries is that of which an illustration is here presented. Unlike in appearance, in all respects, to any of the different forms of vegetation at the north, unless it be an imitation in gigantic size of the Ostrich Fern, it is equally as strange and remarkable in the character of its production. Many of our readers, probably, have seen small toys, and useful articles, made of a substance known in commerce and trade as vegetable ivory; this substance is the product of the *Phytelephas*. The tree first became known to the world through the Spanish settlers of Peru, but since then it has been found to be a native of New Grenada and Ecuador. The trunk of the tree, if it may be said to have any, is a short stem, nearly horizontal, and in part covered by the soil. From the summit of this stem gracefully rises a crown of fronds, of which the longest measure about twenty feet. The plant is dioecious, that is, the staminate and pistillate flowers are produced on separate plants. The flowers are borne in fascicles springing from the internal bases, or axils, of the leaves, and their perfume embalms the whole country around. The large fruits, which succeed the flowers, are, like those of the Pine-apple, an aggregation of many fruits into one head. These large masses, or heads, which are about ten inches in diameter, constitute a kind of dry drupe; or, in other words, the covering surrounding the seeds, which at first is soft and pulpy, in the ripe fruit is a hard and almost woody mass, marked, or lobed, by the summits



of the individual fruits. At a certain stage of growth the fruits are gathered for its pulpy covering; the pulp is described as yellow, sweet and oily, and a spoonful of it added to a little water and sugar constitutes a beverage the most delicious the country affords. In each lobe of the large fruit are several oval, or almost spherical, seeds or nuts, with a hard covering which is smooth and shining and of a grayish brown color. In these seeds are enclosed the substance known as vegetable ivory; it is the albumen of the seed, or it is the substance that corresponds to the meat in the cocoanut. In the first stages of its growth the fruit contains a clear and tasteless liquid, which is a precious boon to the thirsty traveler; later the liquid becomes milky and sugary, and begins to thicken; gradually it solidifies until it attains the hardness of ivory. The liquor of the young fruit turns to vinegar when the fruits have been separated a few days from the trees. Bears, wild boars, and other wild animals are very fond of the young fruits. The shells of the nuts separate easily from the meat, and this, when quite dry, becomes very white and hard. It is fashioned by the turners into the heads of canes and umbrellas, thimble cases, chess men, buttons, and a great variety of small articles. The leaves of the tree are used by the natives of the country where it grows, to thatch their huts. The word, *Phytelephas*, is formed from the Greek words, *phyton*, a plant, and *elephas*, an elephant, thus signifying the ivory-plant.

There are at least two species of the *Phytelephas*, and the one here described is *P. macro-*



carpa. It is said to grow only in dense forests, and is never seen on the open plains. It has been cultivated in some large plant collections in Europe, but we have never heard of it in this country. In time, some enterprising amateur with ample convenience will probably number it among his rare specimens.

#### JOE'S FUCHSIA.

Joe walked into the house, holding in his hand a pot with a Fuchsia in bloom. "What a beauty," I exclaimed, "where did you get it?"

"Mr. Vick's gardener told me I might have it for my own if I would take care of it."

"Well, you may let it stand on this bracket in the south window; you know the sun shines on it all the morning, and the steam from the kitchen will supply moisture to the atmosphere, so that the poor plant will not suffer from dry air."

Joe looked at me, and then at the plant, evidently wondering what need it would have of steam from the kitchen. All the boy's little friends, on visiting us, were introduced to the plant, and informed that it belonged solely to Joe. This right of possession makes the plant an object of his special care. My window is full of plants, but none of them have charms to him like the Fuchsia. He listens while I tell him that the water which he pours into the pot is absorbed by the roots, which drink it from the soil, and that it then passes into the stems and leaves and flower, which hangs down like an ear-drop. I tell him if he keeps the leaves well washed they will draw nourishment from the air, as the plant is not entirely dependent on the moisture derived from the roots. So Joe carries it into the kitchen, and, with a sponge, carefully washes each leaf. He does this with such a look of interest in his bright eyes that it does me good to see him.

But, with all the care given, the flower fell from the stem and the plant began to look pale and sickly, for, some days this winter have been "sad and dreary," without a ray of sunshine, and Joe would say, "I wish it was back in the greenhouse again."

It is true that the Fuchsia is not growing stronger, and Joe is somewhat disappointed. But I am rewarded and happy in knowing that he is cultivating a taste for flowers; his experience with this one will abide with him; he has learned a little about the nature of it, and a desire is probably awakened in his mind to learn more of nature's handiwork.—M. H. S.

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